

Preview

Historic Jaguar cars at Syon Park and an exhibition of the Survey of costumes from BBC Television's *The Six Wives of Henry VIII* and *Elizabeth R* are among the family outings suggested for the coming week in today's Preview, the arts and entertainments guide published each Friday with *The Times*. Full information about current and forthcoming arts festivals, films, plays, concerts, exhibitions, sport and broadcasting are also included.

Security tight at Hillhead

Strathclyde police imposed strict day-long security at Knightswood secondary school, where the Glasgow, Hillhead, election votes were counted. Only pass holders were allowed in and everyone was searched. A high turnout was reported. Mr Bruce Douglas-Mann, the Independent SNP MP for Morton, Mitchem and Morden, is to fight a by-election on June 3 as he promised to do when he left the Labour Party last year.

Nigerian ban 'to cost UK £250m'

British companies could lose up to £250m in business because of Nigeria's two-month ban on imports, the Confederation of British Industry estimated. It said thousands of companies, large and small, would be affected.

Jail conditions 'deplorable'

Conditions in Leeds prison are described as deplorable by the Chief Inspector of Prisons in a report. It says that "deplorable overcrowding in the prison makes life a daily struggle for survival."

Official secrets rules relaxed

The Government has decided, in response to last year's Wilson report on official secrecy, among other measures, to relax the blanket exemption from public disclosure under the 30-year rule of the official files of MI5 and MI6.

Helicopter saves eight

An RAF helicopter rescued eight people from a boat abandoned in the north Atlantic. Two more crew were rescued by a Danish helicopter and one man was missing in rough seas.

E Germany tells guards to shoot

East Germany passed a law formally ordering its border guards to shoot anyone trying to flee into West Germany. Last year 300 East Germans escaped across the heavily mined and guarded frontier.

'Thoroughbreds' in decline

The state of British bloodstock is examined in part four of *The Times* series on the racing industry. It shows how exports by overseas breeders have affected the quality of thoroughbreds.

Sattar under death threat

President Sattar of Bangladesh and his Cabinet, ousted in a coup, could face the death penalty, Dacca radio said.

Easter recess

The Commons will rise for the Easter recess on April 8 and return on April 19. The Lords will rise on April 7 and resume on April 19.

Cambridge blow

The Cambridge crew for tomorrow's university boat race damaged their boat's shell in training at Chiswick when they hit a submerged piece of timber.

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Letters: on police committees, from Mr James Lemkin, and Mr Raymond Blackburn; teachers' role, from Mr Peter Dawson and Mr John Edmonds.

Leading articles: TUC General Council; European Community; Access to records

Features, page 8

The misunderstood revolution in El Salvador; Dr David Browning; John Rae on the Labour threat to independent schools; the human dynamo in Sony

Obituary, page 10

Professor Mario Praz; Mr Thomas Hodgkin

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IRA kill three soldiers after holding Belfast family hostage

By Richard Ford

Three soldiers were shot dead in an IRA ambush in west Belfast yesterday only 22 hours after the Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary said terrorists were reeling from blows inflicted upon them by informers.

A two-vehicle Army patrol had just left the heavily guarded police station in Springfield Road when gunmen opened fire from a house where they had held a family hostage for almost 12 hours.

Two soldiers were killed instantly and a third died later in the Royal Victoria Hospital after they were hit by a burst of fire from an M60 machine gun and two high-powered rifles.

Nine passers-by aged between 27 and 72 were injured in the attack, which lasted for a couple of minutes. The ambush, which happened at 11.20 am, is a reminder that the IRA is still active in Belfast.

Three of the civilians injured in the attack, which happened in a street crowded with women, some enjoying the sunshine with their children, were kept in hospital. The other six were treated for shock and cuts.

The soldiers, from the Royal Green Jackets, are the first Army fatalities in the province this year. The ambush was the worst single incident since last May, when five soldiers from the Green Jackets died when a Saracen armoured car was blown up in south Armagh.

Yesterday's deaths bring the total in Northern Ireland since the present troubles began to 2,187, with the Army losing 348 men.

The names of the dead soldiers were being withheld last night until their relatives had been told.

Some kind of reaction had been expected in Ulster to the comments of Sir John Hervey-Chief Constable of the RUC about terrorists "reeling" because of informants. However, the Provisional IRA said in a statement that the attack was not a direct response to British-inspired stories that the organization was finished.

The attack demonstrated "in a practical fashion that the IRA is here to stay and that the struggle will continue until our objectives are achieved".

Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, appealed in the House of Commons for restraint in commenting about Ulster. He said everything must be done to help the security forces but added: "It is so important for everyone in this House not to say anything which will increase the sense of peaceful persuasion more difficult."

"Every time that anyone in the press or anywhere talks about the demise of the IRA it is an open invitation for them to come out. That is why I think the less said about these things the better."

The Rev Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, was more blunt, saying that Sir John must accept part of the blame for the deaths of the soldiers.

There was no immediate response from the Chief Constable although the police said that such a carefully planned attack "takes longer than an hour to set up". They called for vigilance and said: "The Provisional IRA and INLA (Irish National Liberation Army) have suffered serious reverses and are all the more dangerous for that."

Yesterday's ambush began at midnight on Wednesday in Cross Street, near the police station when at least five men took over a house and held Mrs Anne McGivern, aged 81, her daughter Mrs Christine Quinn and son-in-law Eamon, hostage throughout the night.

The two Army Land-Rovers drove past the house two gunmen upstairs and one on the ground floor opened fire from about 300 yds.

More than 50 shots were fired, spraying the Army vehicles and a van near by and returning fire and the soldiers. Women snatched their children and pushed them indoors and passers-by fell to the ground and sought cover in hallways.

So quick was the attack that the Army was unable to return fire and the gunmen fled through a back door.

Mrs Doreen Donnelly, a mother of five who lives in Cross Street, said: "The soldiers were lying on the ground, screaming and rolling about in agony. There was pandemonium in the street which was crowded at the time."

Chief Superintendent James Cunniff, of the RUC, said it was a diabolical attack carried out by five men. Prior assembly plan, page 3

Wider stop and search powers for the police

By Hugh Noyes

Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, yesterday rejected the clamour in certain sections of the Conservative Party for firmer action to combat rising crime by announcing legislative plans to extend police powers to stop and search.

The new powers will be brought forward in the next session of Parliament in a police Bill which is expected to include new arrangements for a more widely acceptable police complaints procedure.

Mr Whitelaw said he accepted the case that the Criminal Justice Bill, which is expected to include a rationalization of the existing powers to stop and search for stolen goods.

Under the proposed legislation police will have wider powers to stop people if they suspect they are carrying not only stolen goods but also offensive weapons, and also to search premises for evidence in difficult cases.

The Home Secretary also said that he would be widening the area of disqualification for jury service to exclude anyone convicted of an imprisonable offence during the previous 10 years.

Mr Whitelaw has been concerned at reports that in some areas former criminals have been turning up on juries in alarming numbers.



An Army Land-Rover at the scene of the ambush in west Belfast yesterday.

Coal board rebuffed over Belvoir mining

By John Young and Paul Routledge

The Government yesterday rejected the National Coal Board's application to mine the Vale of Belvoir coalfield.

The announcement came nearly two years after the conclusion of a public inquiry which lasted 83 days. It was greeted with predictable relief and delight by farmers and conservationists, and with equally predictable anger and dismay by the NCB and the National Union of Mine-workers.

The long delay in reaching a verdict is widely assumed to have been due to a deep division in the Cabinet between Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, and Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, on the one hand, and Mr David Howell, former Secretary of State for Energy, and his successor, Mr Nigel Lawson, on the other.

In refusing the application, albeit with qualifications, Mr Heseltine overruled the recommendation of the inquiry inspector, Mr Michael Mann, QC, that permission should be granted to construct three mines, but that it should be refused for spoilt tips at Hase and Salsby.

His decision should not be seen as going against Government policy that the coal industry had an essential and increasing part to play in meeting the country's future energy needs, Mr Heseltine said.

He accepted that the board might wish to submit new planning applications setting out revised proposals for exploiting a massive national resource. But before doing so it should re-examine how the coalfield could be worked to minimize environmental disturbance, and how the colliery waste could be disposed of other than by local surface tipping.

Mr Heseltine's statement made it clear that it was the waste disposal issue that had finally swayed the Government.

Mr Roy Hattersley, opposition spokesman on home affairs, said that Labour would not support any new police powers that would detach the police even further from the community. The sort of powers that would do this, he said, were among those recommended by the Royal Commission and included the stop and search powers, finger-pointing of children and the arrest of anyone refusing to give his name and address.

Mr Whitelaw also came under fire for having announced the publication of the Metropolitan police figures for crimes of violence analysed according to the race of the assailant. Mr Hattersley said it was hard to imagine a more bone-dry set of statistics. The Home Secretary, he suggested, must know that those tables were statistical garbage.

Mr Whitelaw disagreed that the figures would harm race relations. It was better, he said, for such problems to be discussed in terms of the facts rather than rumours.

SAS man's wife to receive five-figure sum

A health authority is to make a five-figure interim payment to the wife of a part-time SAS soldier left in a coma for 10 months after being starved of oxygen during a routine operation.

The exact amount to be paid by the Hereford and Worcester area health authority to Mrs Anne Woodhouse, aged 25, is not being disclosed.

Mr David Woodhouse, aged 28, suffered brain damage when he was left without oxygen for a prolonged period during an appendix operation.

Many of the remaining 17 West Bank mayors were in urgent consultation: the official reasons for the dismissal of the two mayors could easily have applied to them. The two were dismissed because of "their activity of general agitation, non-recognition of the civil administration and repeated attempts to disrupt public order and normal governing, in accordance with PLO policy and directives".

Crisis for Israel, page 6

Final showdown threatened on West Bank

From Christopher Walker, Ramallah, March 25

The ground was laid today for a final showdown between the Israelis and West Bank supporters of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), when the Army issued summary dismissal orders to the two most radical of the remaining mayors elected by popular vote in 1976.

The dawn move against Mr Karim Khalaf of Ramallah, and Mr Bassam Shaka of Nablus, was sanctioned personally by Mr Menachem Begin, the Prime Minister. It was accompanied by a significant raising of Israel's military profile in the West Bank, including the deployment of red-bellied soldiers from the crack paratroop unit.

Both mayors defiantly refused to sign the Israeli order sanctioning their dismissal. Later, Mr Khalaf told *The Times*: "I am still the mayor of my town, elected by my people. The Israelis cannot alter that, or prevent my support for the PLO, our sole and legitimate representative."

Mr Khalaf was speaking in an Anglican orphange in Ramallah being used as a temporary venue for an emergency session of his eight-strong council. Outside, the main entrance road was blocked by an Israeli armoured vehicle, while near by, young Arabs erected blazing barricades and chanted PLO slogans.

The mayor, who was first elected in 1972, said that Israeli troops had woken him at 6.30 am and driven him to Nablus to be confronted with the officer in charge of the central command, Major General Uri Orr. Mr Khalaf then read from a lengthy document which he said was an Arabic translation of the accusations made against him, including membership of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Among many Jews in Israel, the harsh action against the Arab mayors was also forcibly condemned. Mr Haim Bar-Lev, the secretary-general of the Opposition Labour Party, claimed that the right-wing Government's policy in the West Bank was based purely on force. He added that what the mayors thought or felt was their own business, and claimed that they should have been removed from office all three Palestinian mayors subjected to the still unproved car bomb attacks in the summer of 1980. From the outset, the mayors have consistently blamed Israeli intelligence for involvement in the attacks, which left Mr Khalaf and Mr Shaka crippled for life.

In political terms, today's dismissals represent the toughest Israeli action yet in the new policy of attempting to replace the existing West Bank leadership with local Arabs willing to cooperate with a limited autonomy scheme. It is widely expected to be followed by further sweeping measures against self-proclaimed PLO supporters in the main occupied towns.

A violent reaction from the Palestinians was swift, with the worst incident occurring in the occupied Gaza Strip, where an Israeli sergeant-major was killed and three soldiers injured when masked Arabs threw a grenade into their vehicle. Three local residents were also badly hurt in the blast.

The Army released no news of the death for many hours. But, later this afternoon,

Bell, Marconi, but Baird?

From Christopher Thomas New York, March 25

One chilly evening early in 1926, John Logie Baird invited a small group of guests into his London attic workshop at 22 Frith Street, Soho, and promised to show them something remarkable.

He asked them to gather round a strange looking apparatus and to keep their eyes fixed firmly on a small screen in the centre, which was the lens of a bicycle lamp. He disappeared into an adjoining room, grabbed a ventriloquist's dummy, and began fiddling with another peculiar looking machine.

Soon, light began to flicker on the screen and gradually the blurred but unmistakable image of the dummy was seen bobbing up and down. Two days later, on January 26, that momentous occasion was reported exclusively in *The Times* under the headline: "The television. Successful test of new apparatus."

It was—or was it?—the beginning of television. Baird, a poor Scottish scientist in a desperate race to become the first to transmit moving pictures. Whether he was the first, whether he deserves the honour of being the inventor of television, is the subject of intensive controversy in broadcasting circles in the United States.

Most Americans are taught that television was the invention of American engineers and scientists: a few are taught

that the father of television was Vladimir Zworykin, a Russian-born scientist resident in America. Hardly anybody, however, has heard of Baird.

Mr Donald Flamm, an American millionaire who helped pioneer commercial radio in the United States, brought Baird to America, in 1931, to continue his work on the transmission of images, and they became close friends.

"He died broken-hearted because his achievement was not recognized," Mr Flamm said. "As Baird is to the telephone, so Baird should be to television."

Mr Flamm, who owns two popular radio stations in the New York area, has no doubt that Baird was the inventor of television. In the sense that he gave the first practical demonstration of transmitted moving images.

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science report

Interferon helps in hepatitis treatment

By Pearce Wright Science Editor

Interferon has been found to be effective in the treatment of hepatitis B virus infection. The results of a study conducted by Dr. Stanley Kapikian and Dr. Talia Hahn, of the National Institutes of Health, are reported in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

The study involved 100 patients with chronic hepatitis B virus infection. They were divided into two groups: one group received interferon treatment, and the other group received a placebo. The interferon group showed a significantly higher rate of viral clearance and improvement in liver function tests compared to the placebo group.

Interferon is a naturally occurring protein that helps the body's immune system fight off viruses. It is produced by cells in response to viral infection. The treatment involves regular injections of interferon over a period of several weeks.

The study also found that interferon treatment was well-tolerated by most patients, with only mild side effects such as flu-like symptoms and fatigue. However, some patients experienced more severe side effects, including depression and weight loss.

These findings suggest that interferon may be a valuable treatment for chronic hepatitis B virus infection, particularly in cases where the virus is not cleared by the body's immune system.

Leeds prison conditions 'are deplorable'

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

The Chief Inspector of Prisons has described conditions in Leeds Prison as deplorable. A report published yesterday expresses "extreme disquiet" over crowding in the prison, which is said to be as bad as the inspection team had ever observed.

"Life is a daily struggle for survival as the numbers are judged in an endeavour to make room for the fresh influx which the evening will bring," the chief inspector's report says.

"Leeds has been variously described as a human warehouse, a great penal transit camp, and the 'Clapham Junction of the North', all these descriptions are accurate."

There are not enough sanitary recesses on each wing; the bath-house could provide only 16 baths and showers for 1,200 men; the water supply failed almost daily because the storage tanks could no longer meet the demand; the drains became clogged; the visiting facilities were hopelessly congested; and the hospital was grossly overcrowded. The report adds that more than 300 men could not be found employment and spent their days in idleness in overcrowded cells.

Even when improvements to report recommendations have been done, the remaining facilities would be so inadequate that the population should be reduced. There were still some inmates in the prison hospital who would be more appropriately accommodated in local mental hospitals.

Through no fault of local management, inmates of the prison were living, and staff were working, in conditions degrading to both. But the high morale and rapport between staff and prisoners was said to be impressive.

The report says: "The prison is a humane, efficient conveyor belt, but we consider it highly undesirable that a prison should have to function like a production line."

The number of prisoners aged under 21 was growing and was estimated to be three times as high as on April, 1980. The report says the quality of the unconvicted prisoner was worse than for the convicted.

On the first day of the inspection, the total population was 1,193, instead of the 612 Leeds prison was supposed to hold. The staff were not "entirely successful" in moving the entire prison population once a week through the bath-house on "a dirty and primitive basement area".

A new hospital should be provided, the report says, while the inspection team

Whale hunt ban on Japan avoided

From Nicholas Timmins Brighton

The conservationist countries in the International Whaling Commission (IWC) yesterday backed off from any attempt to impose a ban on the hunting of sperm whales by Japan.

Instead, the commission, without taking a vote, deferred the question to its annual meeting in July. This is the first time that the conservation countries, which now have the majority necessary to impose their view on the whaling nations, have avoided putting the issue to the vote, and the decision may mark a watershed in the commission's affairs.

Fears that Japan would exercise its right to object to a ban and continue hunting whales lay partly behind the decision. But since last year's commission meeting there have also been objections from Japan and other whaling countries to a ban imposed on the use of the cold harpoon to kill smaller whales.

Some of the conservation countries now seem to fear that if they simply impose their view on the whaling nations, more objections will be lodged, the commission's decisions will become increasingly meaningless and the whole procedure will become unworkable.

Instead, they feel, progress may be made more through a consensus than confrontation.

So far that seems to be a minority view among the conservation countries and confrontation tactics may return. But a significant indication of the change of attitude came from The Netherlands, in the past a front-line conservation nation.

Mr Fer von der Assen, its commissioner, in his opening statement at the meeting in Brighton, appealed for the objection procedure to be used as little as possible.

The conservationist countries are hampered in their attempt to stop Japan taking 890 sperm whales off its coast by the fact that scientific evidence is far from clear on whether the hunt should cease.

The evidence shows that even if no whales are taken, certain sections of the whale population will shortly decline to the level where under the Commission's rule the stock should be protected.

In the mid-1980s, however, it will recover. The Japanese to take 890 whales a year until then would simply delay the recovery for a year or two.

Japan argues that taking 890 whales from a population which numbers, at the minimum, 200,000 adult whales will do no damage.

Former gang chiefs petition No 10

Former London gang leaders who say they have put their past behind them yesterday pledged support for a petition to the Home Secretary, Mr. Eddie Richardson, brother of Charles Richardson, said he believed the deterrent was being caught, not the prison sentence. Mr. Bobby Welch, one of the train robbers, is also backing the campaign. He got a 30-year sentence but was released on parole in 1976.

The party presenting the petition at Downing Street yesterday included one of the lesser-known Morey gang, Mr. Bill Morey; three black youngsters who had been in various kinds of trouble with the law; and a former sergeant in the Pay Corps, who got a five-year sentence for the theft of £5,000.

The petition, which its 30 signatories organized by the Apex Trust, which helps former offenders to find employment. It said that tougher policing and stiffer sentencing penalties would not reduce the crime level.

21 murder attempts on policemen

There were 21 attempts last year to murder policemen in the Strathclyde region, Mr. Patrick Hamill, the area's Chief Constable, said yesterday, the Press Association reports.

More than 2,000 officers were assaulted and criminals against the law, he said.

After two years in which crime figures had remained almost static, he reported an increase of more than 12 per cent, giving a total of 223,685 crimes recorded.

Violent crime, particularly mugging, was increasing.

The Ulster murders Another tragedy for a famous regiment

By Henry Stanhope, Defence Correspondent

Although yesterday's shooting brought the Army's first fatalities in Northern Ireland for six months, it was the third disaster in less than a year for the Royal Green Jackets, one of Britain's most famous regiments.

Four of its men were killed by a bomb in a car in the Royal Corps of Transport, when their Saracen armoured troop carrier was blown up by a bomb in south Armagh last May. A fifth died in a separate incident two months later.

Yesterday's murders raised the number of men from the regiment who have been killed in Northern Ireland since 1969 to 28, two of them officers. It came, as has so often happened, when the 2nd Battalion was approaching the end of its four-and-a-half-month emergency tour of duty in Springfield Road and soldiers were looking forward to returning to their families based at Minden, West Germany.

For many riflemen it could well be their last tour in Ulster, where the number of troops is down to 10,550, about half the peak figure at the time of the Operation Banner in 1972. Of the nine leading units serving there at any one time only three are now serving on short-term emergency tours.

The Royal Green Jackets regiment has existed in its present form since 1966 after

Private buses 'forced out'

From Tim Jones, Cardiff

The first private operator in Britain to win the right to compete with a local authority on the same bus routes has ceased operation after 11 months.

Mr Keith Morris's company, CK Coaches, ran 18 buses in Cardiff. He claimed last night that the company had been forced off the road by unfair competition. He said the council refused to let him compete on a level playing field with extra buses and by subsidizing unrealistically low tenders for school and other transport.

"It is the ratepayers' money that caused us to stop. The council has been using the rates to give us extreme competition," he said.



Lord Crawshaw, chairman of the Quorn Hunt, getting an enthusiastic welcome from a hound yesterday.

Protest over move to stop hunting

Hundreds of hunt followers and huntsmen from Britain's premier hunts converged on Leicestershire County Hall yesterday in an attempt to stop a plan by Labour councillors to ban hunting on council-owned land in the county (Our Leicestershire Correspondent writes).

Huntsmen and whippers-in from nine packs paraded in full livery before handing in a petition with 12,500 signatures to Conservative county councillors.

The Labour councillors' proposal to ban hunting on 10,000 acres comes just weeks after the Co-operative Wholesale Society banned hunting on 4,500 acres of its land in Leicestershire.

The matter will be debated by the council on Wednesday. Taking part in the protest were the Leicestershire Alliance of Hunts, made up of the Quorn, Fernie, Belvoir, Cottingham, Atherstone and Pritchley fox hunts, together with the Oakley Foot Beagles, North Warwickshire

Beagles and Westerby Bassett Hounds.

The proposal was put forward by Mr Charles Wrigley, a councillor and Loughborough University lecturer, who believes fox-hunting is "a cruel form of entertainment disguised as pest control".

Major Charles Humfrey, Secretary of the Quorn Hunt, added: "If this proposal should go through, fishing and shooting would be the next to go."

Tories oppose immigration rule

By Lucy Hodges

Six Conservative MPs objected to the Government's immigration rule which prevents British women who are not born here or who do not have a parent born here from bringing their foreign husbands or fiancés to the United Kingdom.

They tabled an early-day motion in which they said they believed that the rule breached the European Convention on Human Rights.

The other MPs were Mr John Wilkinson, MP for Hillingdon, Ruislip-Northwood and chairman of the Anglo-Asian Conservative Association, Mr Robert Hicks, (Bodmin), Mr David Knox, (Leek), Mr Stephen Dorrell, (Loughborough), and Mr John Watson, (Skipton).

The Home Office is reviewing the immigration rules after the passing of the Nationality Act, and the MPs hope for a change in that review. It is thought the Government may change the rule because of the strong possibility that the European Commission will find against it.

plains that the immigration rule discriminates on the grounds of race and sex. British men who were not born here and do not have a parent born here are able to bring foreign wives and fiancés to the country. Mr Cyril Townsend, Conservative MP for Bexley, Bexley Heath, who resigned his post of parliamentary private secretary in December 1979, when the rule was introduced, urged the Government to change it.

"I think it is directly contrary to the European Convention," he said. "I do not think the law and order party should go out of its way to break that convention."

Thirlmere's boat ban will remain

By Ronald Faux

The saga of Thirlmere, the Cumbrian lake that supplies Manchester with water, is about to come full circle.

The lake was turned into a reservoir in the 1880s against strong local opposition. Even the bishops of Manchester and Carlisle went on a mission to the countryside with water, in the argument, and the chairman of the Manchester Waterworks Committee and a city alderman crawled one wet day past the windows of Dale Head Hall, to avoid being tackled by the squires on their way to the edge of the lake.

Manchester's industrial thirst was understood but many resented the intrusion and the flooding of the countryside. Since then, the North-west Water Authority has been criticized for isolating a fine stretch of the Lake District with "keep out" signs.

No one is allowed near the water except water board staff who have been cleared as possible typhoid carriers, and nothing is allowed to float on the lake.

But with improved treatment processes, a new plant to be built near Bolton through which Thirlmere water will pass, the Lake District Planning Board has the chance of opening the lake and the surrounding forest to the public.

However, it seems that is not to be.

A subcommittee of the board has voted against allowing sailing craft on the reservoir and that decision is likely to be ratified at a full board meeting on Monday. Experience on other lakes has apparently bred such an aversion to boats that not even sailing boats without engines are to be allowed on the surface of Thirlmere.

A water board official said the treatment plant was not being built solely to open up Thirlmere as a recreation area but because it was appropriate for the source of water.

Newspaper to close

The two-year-old *Evening Herald* at Chelmsford, Essex, owned by Essex-Chronicle Series, Ltd, is to cease publication on April 16. The management said yesterday that job losses would number fewer than 60.

Retirement at 63 could cost £1,600m

By Pat Healy, Social Services Correspondent

Equalizing retirement age at 63 for men and women while introducing retiring pensions for those between the ages of 60 and 63 could cost as much as £1,600m a year.

That is estimated in an unpublished note prepared by officials at the Department of Health and Social Security for the Commons Select Committee on Social Services.

The officials emphasize that many of their figures are more than "speculative guessimates", partly because there is no way of telling how many women would work on beyond the age of 60 or how many men would retire before reaching the age of 63. But they say the indications are that the continuing increase in net costs to public funds would be about a £50m a year at present pension levels.

The figures are based on a new scheme combining the idea of "parties" pensions with flexible retirement, ideas that are under discussion in the select committee's study of the age of retirement.

The scheme assumes that the normal pension age would be 63 for men and women, but they could choose to retire between 60 and 63. Early retirees would be subject to an earnings rule that is more generous than the existing one which applies to people for the first five years after normal retirement age. Their pensions would also be reduced if they retired early, by 24 per cent at age 60, 16 per cent at age 61 and 8 per cent at age 62.

People retiring at age 63 would not face a retirement test on earnings rule and the present system of increments to pensions for later retirees would be abolished.

If half the people eligible to retire between the ages of 60 and 63 did so, the net cost would be £1,600m a year. If only a quarter did so, the net cost would be £1,100m including savings of £250m a year from the higher pension age for women.

But there would be a further £500m to £1000m added each year to net costs because of the numbers opting to retire early on lower pensions, the ending of the earnings rule and the abolition of increments to pensions. It would take about 30 years for these costs to reach a break-even point, but the heavy early costs of paying lower pensions to men and women between the ages of 60 and 63 should break even after 10 years.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Big typhoid outbreak confirmed

Health officials confirmed yesterday that there had been a "large outbreak" of typhoid in Southampton. They said the disease was confined to one family group, and two food shops run by adult members of the group have been closed as a precaution.

Officials emphasized that there was no cause for alarm, as the disease was confined to children in the family. A woman in her late twenties, who has been confirmed as the carrier, and 15 children were in hospital yesterday.

Test have confirmed that five children have the disease, and the remainder are being treated in case they have.

The outbreak is one of the largest in recent times, but Dr John Dawe, the district community physician, said that was because the family group and the remainder are being treated in case they have.

Vicar bailed in wounding case

The Rev William Cecil Healey, vicar of St Anthony's church, Sanderstead, Surrey, who is accused of unlawfully and maliciously wounding one of his parishioners, was remanded on bail for a month after telling Croydon magistrates that his solicitor was on holiday and could not appear for him.

Mr Healey, aged 42, was accused of maliciously wounding Mr Albert John Underwood, aged 56, at his home in Ansley Close, Sanderstead, on January 30.

Six students die in car crash

Six male overseas students died when their car crashed in the grounds of a college near Grantham, Lincolnshire, yesterday. Their car hit a fence, brick wall and a gatepost on the mile-long private drive leading to Grantham Manor, British campus of the University of Evansville Indiana in the United States.

Two of the victims were from Oman, two from Nigeria, one from Turkey and one from Libya.

New private hospital

BUPA has been given planning permission for a £4.5m hospital with 56 beds at Colney, near Norwich, in spite of protests that it would "cream off" National Health Service staff when a new NHS hospital was being opened at Gorleston, Norfolk.

He'll remain a civilian while he's at university. When he graduates he'll go to Sandhurst and then complete a minimum of three years service.

He can apply for a Bursary regardless of whether he's started his university course or is about to start it.

Alternatively, of course, he can apply for an Undergraduate Cadetship as we described above.

If he has graduated or is about to graduate.

Assuming your son can pass the selection board, he can apply for either a Short Service Commission or a Regular Commission.

As a graduate he'll be commissioned immediately and go to Sandhurst for a 20-week course. Then he'll join his regiment.

We'll give him antedated seniority. This means that most of his time at university will be considered as service in the Army and will count towards promotion.

As a young officer he may have some opportunities for post-graduate studies of one kind or another.

If he shows signs of being interested.

Long winded though this advertisement has been, we've said nothing about the different jobs we offer. Or pay. Or promotion. Or the immense variety of tasks within the Army.

We would be delighted to expand on all these topics and to discuss the ways in which we may be able to meet your son's needs.

All he has to do is drop us a line and tell us about his current situation and his immediate plans. We'll take it from there.

Tell him to write to Major John Floyd, Army Officer Entry, Dept. B9, Lansdowne House, Berkeley Square, London W1X 6AA. He should state date of birth, educational qualifications and a summary of his life in general so far.

How we can help your son up the ladder.

If your boy is between 15½ and 16½ during the first seven months of next year and he can get through our medical and interview he might win a two-year scholarship worth up to £1410 p.a. We award up to 90 of these each year.

If he gets one and then at least two A Levels he won't have to pass any further exams to get into Sandhurst.

Or you can apply for a place at Welbeck, the Army's own sixth-form college, which provides an education for boys aiming at a commission in a technical corps.

To qualify, he must be well up to GCE or SCE O Level standard in English Language, Maths, Physics and two other subjects, preferably including Chemistry.

At the time of joining, in January or September, your son must be aged between 16 years and 17 years 6 months.

He must pass a medical exam and a selection board. If he succeeds in getting satisfactory A Level passes at Welbeck it will earn him a place at Sandhurst.

If he's about to leave school and he doesn't have a place at university.

If he's 18 and got at least 5 O Levels including English Language he can apply for a Short Service Commission - 3 years active service and 5 on the reserve.

He'll have to pass our selection board which involves physical, written and oral tests of character, education and ability.

Then he's off to Sandhurst for a seven-month course on an Officer cadet's pay. After which he'll get his pip and join his regiment.

On the other hand, if he's got at least 2 A Levels and 3 O Levels which must include English Language, Mathematics and a science or a foreign language, he could go for a Regular Commission. In which case he'll do a further six months at Sandhurst. A Regular Commission can be for any length of service up to the age of 55.

He might like the idea of spending a few months in the ranks to broaden his outlook and to learn to take orders before going on to give them. In which case he should apply for an O Type engagement.

If he has been offered a place at university.

If your son has a place at a university promised to him and he can pass our 3-day

selection board at Westbury, we may give him a Cadetship and pay him a salary of £4201, rising to £5201 plus all his fees while he's at university. He'll go on a 3-week course at Sandhurst in September before he goes up to university, and he'll spend a few weeks of his summer vacations with a regiment or corps.

After he graduates we'll give him an 28-week course at Sandhurst. And we'll give him antedated seniority.

In return for all this we'll expect him to give the Army a minimum of five years service - which for many people is even more of an education than university.

An alternative to the building site.

If your son is eighteen and has secured a place at university we may have a job for him before he goes up.

If he can pass the medical examination and our three-day selection board at Westbury we may commission him as a 2nd Lieutenant for between four and eighteen months. The first three weeks will be at Sandhurst and the rest with a regiment.

It's a great way to get a taste of Army life without any further commitment. We call it the Short Service Limited Commission.

If he doesn't intend to go to university we may change his mind.

Every year up to 130 young Officers go to university. Some go immediately after their training at Sandhurst. Others serve a couple of years with their regiment first.

Up to 90 go to the Royal Military College of Science at Shrivenham to read for engineering degrees. 20 can go to Cambridge to read science. Another 24 can go to other universities to study for arts degrees.

And if your son hasn't got the exams needed for university we can offer him a pre-university study course to help him get them.

If he's at university and you're feeling the pinch.

If your son can meet the physical requirements and pass the selection board he can get a Bursary worth £290 p.a. to



NEWS IN SUMMARY

Zimbabwe road closed by curfew

Salisbury. — Police imposed a dusk-to-dawn curfew on a 45-mile stretch of a main road on Saturday night in Zimbabwe after an ambush in which two motorists were killed.

The curfew applies to the road from Balla Balla, 38 miles south-east of Bulawayo, to Gwanda in the south. Police said two freight company employees had been killed by unknown assailants when their car came under small arms fire.

Test tube twins for Canada

Oakville, Ontario. — A high school English teacher, Mrs. Kit Runkin, gave birth to twin boys conceived by test-tube fertilization, the first such births in North America, the Trafalgar Memorial Hospital announced. One weighed 6lb 15oz, the other 6lb 4oz.

A boy and girl born last June in Australia were the first set of twins conceived by the British Steptoe-Edwards technique. Mr. Patrick Steptoe was present at the Canadian births.

Reagan says thank you

Mutual support: President Reagan giving a warm welcome to President Sandro Pertini of Italy at Washington at the start of his state visit.



Spectators on the White House lawn cheered as Mr. Reagan praised Italy's rescue of the Kidnapped Brigadier General. General Pertini, who said Italy appeared to be winning its fight against the Red Brigade.

Pretoria blamed over coup

New York. — A United Nations inquiry panel has concluded that the South African authorities were probably aware of the planned coup by mercenaries against the Seychelles, but acknowledged that there was not enough evidence to implicate clearly Pretoria in the action. (Our Correspondent writes).

In a 55-page report, supplemented by nine annexes, the panel, composed of representatives from Ireland, Panama, and Japan, said that given South Africa's tight rein over security matters, it was difficult to believe it had not been aware of the preparations being made for the attack.

Compromise at 'Le Monde'

Paris. — M. Andre Laurens, aged 48, the deputy head of the political department of Le Monde, has been recommended as the next editor-in-chief. He was on a short-list with M. Andre Fontaine, the present editor, and M. Bertrand Porot-Delpech, the literary editor, considered by a committee of seven "wise men" appointed by the staff.

M. Laurens appears as a compromise candidate, a man who can restore peace to an editorial staff deeply divided over the controversial candidature of M. Claude Julien, until recently the editor of Le Monde Diplomatique, who has all set to succeed M. Fauvet.

Bolivian bank workers strike

La Paz. — Bolivia's 10,000 bank workers have begun a 48-hour strike to protest against the military regime's economic policies. Union sources said a Government economic package in February, which had included a 76 per cent devaluation of the currency and food price increases, had sent up the cost of living.

Paris axes two Concorde routes

Caracas. — Air France is axing its Concorde flights between Paris and South America because of high fuel costs and too few passengers. The last flights from Venezuela and Brazil to Paris will be on Saturday and Sunday respectively. The airline will maintain its 11 other weekly flights from Washington-New York-Paris, Mexico-New York-Paris and New York-Faris direct.

Salvador awaits bloody Sunday end to elections

From Paul Ellman, San Salvador, March 25

Troops and police filled the streets here today as El Salvador's military command girded itself for a guerrilla offensive designed to disrupt Sunday's crucial elections. Campaigning for the elections officially ended last night with a crescendo of abuse and vilification, most of it directed by the extreme right against the Christian Democratic Party, headed by President Duarte.

Señor Duarte, whose followers represent the centre ground in El Salvador's turbulent politics, was variously described as a "communist", "traitor" and "homosexual" in broadcasts which dominated radio and television stations throughout yesterday evening.

Most observers here expect the partners of the far right to capture more than half the vote on Sunday, thereby precipitating a new political crisis. Signs of increasing military activity in the north and east of El Salvador appeared to indicate that the threatened guerrilla offensive was beginning.

The guerrillas, operating under the umbrella of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Movement, have denounced the elections as a farce and promised to disrupt the poll.

In what was seen as a first step, guerrillas captured a small town in the province of Morazan, 120 miles north-east of San Salvador. Scattered firing was reported today around the provincial capital, San Francisco de Asís, which is crisscrossed with refugees.

In San Salvador, troops were stationed in residential areas as a precaution against guerrilla attacks. Early today firing broke out around the headquarters of the National Guard, which is considered capable of meeting the threat posed by the guerrillas, should the all-out

offensive they have promised materialize in the days before the elections.

The guerrillas, however, have already let it be known that the aim of the offensive would not be to seize control of the country. Rather the intention would be to create an atmosphere of chaos which would damage the credibility of the electoral process.

President Duarte, meanwhile, has rejected claims by the extreme right that the results of Sunday's vote has been rigged in advance. He said that the armed forces, the election commission and foreign observers, including two from Britain, would ensure a free and fair vote.

Amsterdam. The bodies of four Dutch newspapermen killed in El Salvador last week arrived here today and autopsies were being performed on them at once, a Dutch Justice Ministry spokesman said (Reuters reports).

He said a pathologist's report would be sent to the Dutch Government, which is compiling a report on the deaths of the four members of a television news crew.

The Dutch Ambassador to Mexico has visited El Salvador and completed an investigation into the killings on March 17. □ Guatemala City: The three losing candidates in this month's Guatemalan presidential election spoke out last night in favour of the bloodless military coup which ousted the Government of General Lucas Garcia on Tuesday (AFP reports).

All three, ranging from right-of-centre to far right, had earlier maintained that the March 7 elections were rigged. At the same time, a crowd of thousands assembled in a park in front of the presidential palace to cheer the "young officers' coup", which installed a three-man junta headed by General Efraín Ríos Montt, who ran for president eight years ago on a centrist Christian Democratic ticket.

High-level contacts to reduce the tension

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, March 25

The foreign ministers of three Central American states — El Salvador, Honduras and Costa Rica — held talks with President Reagan and Mr. Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, today to discuss the latest developments in the troubled region.

Among the subjects which the ministers were to review were the coup in Guatemala, the forthcoming elections in El Salvador, the Hondurans call for arms reductions in Central America and Mr. Reagan's recently announced Caribbean basin plan.

Washington is moving towards fresh negotiations aimed at reducing tension in the area. Senior American and Nicaraguan officials are expected to hold talks soon after the El Salvador elections are over to consider ways of resolving the numerous differences between Washington and the left-wing Sandinista Government in Managua.

There have also been reports that General Vernon Walters, an American envoy, has either just been on a secret visit to Cuba or is about to make such a journey. The State Department has refused to comment on these reports.

The three ministers taking part in today's meeting were Señor Chavez Mena of El Salvador, Señor Bernd Niehaus of Costa Rica, and Señor Edgardo Paz Barricco of Honduras. Last January, their countries formed the Central American Demo-

cratic Community, an American-backed group that aims to promote democracy in the region.

Honduras and Costa Rica have held general elections within the past three months and have been watching with interest — and some considerable anxiety — El Salvador's attempts to hold an election in the midst of a rapidly spreading conflict between government forces and left-wing guerrillas.

They are concerned that the military coup in Guatemala, which took place only two weeks after elections had been held in that country, will undermine attempts to replace Central American dictatorships by democratically-elected governments. They also fear that Sunday's elections in El Salvador will not resolve that country's conflict.

Washington was expected to reaffirm its support for the democratic process in Central America at today's meetings. American officials were also expected to outline what they hope to achieve by holding further talks with Nicaragua and, possibly, Cuba as well, both of which are backing the left-wing insurgents operating in the region.

America has welcomed the Honduran proposal made earlier this week for a reduction of weapons and troop levels in Central America "to levels strictly necessary for defence, territorial integrity and public order."

Mr. Gaston Thorn, President of the European Commission, today reiterated his warning that the Communists had hit the Community through the pursuit of national interests and lack of decision in the Council of Ministers. He told the European Parliament on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Rome: "Too often decisions are never taken because we have these endless discussions. This means that the Community spirit has become perverted and has changed the role which is played by the actors. They are refusing to compromise and it is the force of national interests, national obstinacy, which is given primacy."

Without naming Britain, Mr. Thorn obviously had Margaret Thatcher and her Government in mind when he added: "Prizes are being given to those who show a negative attitude."

Nothing illustrated better the unwieldy functioning of the Community than the attempt to get agreement on the mandate of May 30, 1980, respectively. The airline will maintain its 11 other weekly flights from Washington-New York-Paris, Mexico-New York-Paris and New York-Faris direct.

Crisis for Israel



Keeping in touch: Mr Bassam Shaka, the unelected Mayor of Nablus.

PLO split over Gaza killing

From Robert Fisk, Beirut, March 25

In a statement which caused both disbelief and disension within the ranks of the Palestine Liberation Organization, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine — a pro-Moscow PLO guerrilla movement — claimed responsibility today for the fatal grenade attack on Israeli troops in Gaza.

Complete with references to their "heroic guerrillas", the DFLP stated baldly that one of its members had killed the Israeli soldier and wounded his colleagues. The communiqué, printed in Arabic and distributed in Beirut, was — to put it mildly — an extremely serious development.

Few Palestinians in Beirut believe that the DFLP is capable of carrying out an attack in Gaza, although its members have in the past staged cross-border raids into Israel from southern Lebanon. "Those people in the DFLP", one angry PLO official said tonight, "would claim that they landed a man on the moon."

But this afternoon's statement, however meretricious, was the first claim of Palestinian responsibility for an attack against Israel since last July's ceasefire between Palestinians and Israel. If the Israelis are looking for evidence that the PLO is behind the violence in the occupied West Bank, they

can now assert that they have the proof.

Throughout the Arab world today, there were protests, demonstrations and sympathy strikes on behalf of the West Bank Palestinians. In Beirut, automatic gunfire could be heard around the Palestinians' camps as shopkeepers in the west of the city observed a token — though not unanimous — strike. Mr. Yasser Arafat, the PLO chairman, attended a special meeting of his executive committee, when the session was rudely interrupted by the news of the DFLP's claim.

Officially sponsored strikes were staged in Damascus and Amman, where civil servants were ordered to express solidarity with the Palestinians. The authorities in North Yemen followed their example, while a Kuwaiti minister condemned the "Escalation of Israeli oppression" in the West Bank. Even Turkey — which maintains diplomatic relations with Israel — forsook its traditional non-interference in Arab-Israeli politics by accusing Israel of threatening peace and security in the Middle East.

There is, however, still considerable anxiety among Arab nations that the violence in the West Bank will

lead to an Israeli attack on Lebanon, and the PLO — no doubt fearing such an eventuality — today denied that any of its guerrillas had been infiltrating Major Saad Haddad's south Lebanese enclave. The Israelis said yesterday that their troops had arrested several armed Palestinians who had been trying to cross the frontier, but the PLO insisted that its men had been "kidnapped". It did not explain what they had been doing near — or in — the strip of territory controlled by the major.

For the Palestinians — and for the Israelis — the future still turns on the interpretation which each side gives to the unwritten ceasefire agreement last July. The PLO last week accused the Israelis of breaching the truce on 193 occasions, including overflights by Israeli aircraft above Lebanon.

According to Mr. Dean Fischer, an American State Department spokesman, the ceasefire involves "all hostile military activity from Lebanon into Israel and vice versa and therefore any hostile action originating from Lebanon but going through Syria and Jordan into Israel."

Under this broad interpretation, today's claim by the DFLP would automatically qualify as a truce violation.



Standing guard: Israeli troops with an armoured personnel carrier policing a Nablus street.

Dismissals deplored by Britain

By Our Foreign Staff

The British Government yesterday deplored the dismissal by the Israeli military authorities of the two Palestinian mayors in the West Bank.

A Foreign Office spokesman said that the dismissal of the democratically-elected mayors of Nablus and Ramallah, as well as the earlier dismissal of the mayor of El-Bireh, was a matter of deep concern in London. "We appeal again for an end to the violence, which can only harm the prospects of a [peace] settlement", the spokesman added.

Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, is due to visit Israel for two days from next Tuesday evening. He will undoubtedly reiterate the British Government's "ave concern at the latest developments in his talks with Mr. Menachem Begin."

In New York the meeting on the violence in the West Bank on Wednesday night. Council members continued to consult on a resolution seeking to censure Israel for provoking the riots with the introduction of its new occupation measures. The Arab-sponsored draft is demanding the reinstatement of the Palestinian council of El-Bireh.

EEC silver jubilee

Obstinacy 'perverting' the spirit

From George Clark, Strasbourg, March 25

Missions by the President of the EEC, and joint missions by the presidents of the council and the Commission had produced no agreement. It had become more and more urgent that the member states should return to the ideas of European unity propounded by founders of the Community and develop European policies which would have relevance to the ordinary citizen in the fight against unemployment and inflation.

Ministers in the European Council were hesitating because they would not make the tiniest sacrifices which were called for. "We need to have some vision of the future," Mr. Thorn said. "The special meeting of the council on April 3, should, in my opinion, be the place where any yield on the budget offers no guarantee on an endorsement by Britain of farm price increases of the size which the French government considers essential."

France might be prepared to look again at the document when the proposals contained in it have been cooled, but there is practically no hope that an agreement can be reached by ministers of agriculture at the end of this month.

Writing in a supplement to the influential weekly *Polityka*, Mr. Andrzej Olechowski, head of the analysis and

forecasting department of the Institute of Economic Trends and Prices in Foreign Trade, forecast that unless Poland received substantial new credits from both West and East, the drop in the country's national income could be even greater than the 17 to 22 per cent predicted for this year.

"It therefore seems necessary to take steps leading to an alleviation of the sanctions and obtaining credits in the capitalist countries. These steps should include both external and internal political measures which would lead to a national agreement and a removal of the reasons for which the sanctions were imposed, or at least at diversifying the Western countries' stand on this issue."

But in his speech, Mr. Olechowski emphasized Poland's dependence on the Soviet Union and its Warsaw Pact allies for help in pulling the country out of its economic crisis, while expressing hope that the Western countries would show a more "realistic" approach. The Polish Foreign Minister said that the Polish economy would have been "broken" without £2,000m in economic credits granted by the Soviet Union over the past 16 months.

Mr. Jozef Cyrtek, the Polish Foreign Minister, today emphasized again the official government line that the authorities would not bow to Western economic pressures by making political concessions.

"The Western countries make lifting of the restrictions against Poland contingent on the fulfilment by the Polish authorities of specific political conditions," said Mr. Cyrtek, opening a two-day session of the Polish Parliament (Sejm). "This is inadmissible from the point of view of international law and provisions of the Helsinki Final Act. It is also unrealistic."

Mr. Cyrtek, quoting remarks by General Jaruzelski, the Polish leader, reiterated that Poland would not back down before any foreign ultimatums or interference in the country's internal affairs. His comments, at least on the surface, shot down a trial balloon launched last week by some moderates within ruling circles who argued that some political concessions might be necessary to avert an economic collapse.

Leading article page 9

Peking is sceptical of Soviet peace plea

From David Bonavia Hongkong, March 25

China is expected to take a sceptical view of President Brezhnev's latest offer of unconditional talks on relations with the Soviet Union. However, The Peking leadership may consider it useful to give an impression of mild interest in the proposal, if only to put pressure on President Reagan to be more accommodating over Taiwan.

China has always set preconditions for talks to heal the rift with the Soviet Union, and there is no sign that it has dropped these. As a prelude to talks, China has insisted on settlement of the border problem. As a precondition for talks on that issue, it has demanded that the Soviet Union admits having seized Chinese territory over and above the "unequal treaties" of the nineteenth century. Moscow has always balked at this.

Though China considers Khrushchev and Kosygin, the former Soviet prime minister, as mainly responsible for the present state of relations, it has endlessly vilified Mr. Brezhnev for his policy of "hegemonic" expansion in the Third World, and for the Soviet Strategic threat to Western Europe.

To learn that Mr. Brezhnev still considers China to be a Communist country will evoke mainly irony in Peking, the seat of the most far-reaching and radical experiments in applied Marxist theory over the past three decades.

It is several years since Peking called a halt to political attacks on the internal state of affairs in the Soviet Union, but the Chinese consider that the "World Socialist camp" no longer exists, because of Soviet policies.

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Hijacker of Tshombe plane gets 20 years

From Harry Debelius Madrid, March 25

A military court in Palma de Mallorca today sentenced a self-confessed secret agent for Zaïre, M. François Bodenan, a Frenchman, to 20 years plus one day imprisonment for the 1967 hijacking of a chartered private aircraft that flew M. Moïse Tshombe, the prominent Congolese politician, to imprisonment and death in Algeria.

The court found M. Bodenan guilty of violating M. Tshombe's civil rights by forcing the pilot to change course on a flight that was originally intended to take him from Ibiza to Mallorca. The court martial yesterday lasted five and one-half hours, and the seven-officer panel agreed early today on the verdict and sentence.

During the trial, M. Bodenan's lawyer queried the court's right to try his client, arguing that the case should have gone to a civil court under the terms of the Spanish constitution of 1978. He also said that the defendant should be set free under King Juan Carlos's 1977 amnesty which covered political offences. Finally, he claimed that no crime was committed in Spain as he alleged the hijacking took place outside Spanish airspace.

M. Bodenan testified that it was not a hijacking, but a "legal detention", because he was acting as

Spanish women cleared at abortion trial

From Richard Wigg, Madrid, March 25

A Bilbao provincial court today completely absolved nine women who stood trial eight days ago for seeking secret abortions at various times before October, 1976. In a judgement likely to echo throughout Spanish society, the court emphasized that it was seeking to respect the rights of women proclaimed in the 1978 democratic constitution.

The court took the biggest step forward within its power to bring the country into line with most of Western Europe over abortions, despite the determination of Roman Catholic circles to keep it a crime.

Besides clearing nine working class women, all with low levels of education, and several unemployed husbands and sickness in their families, the court urged an individual pardon for the executive for Señora Julia Garcia, under the 1977 general amnesty. She was sentenced to 12 years, six months and three days imprisonment after being found guilty of aborting three women in the case. The prosecutor had asked, under the penalties dating from the Franco era, for a sentence of up to 60 years for her.

It also imposed the minimum prison sentence possible on Señora Jose Seara of one month and one day, which he has already served for bringing the women to Señora Garcia.

At the time of the abortions, sale of contraceptives was illegal in Spain. None of the accused had gone to doctors.

Prison for abortion still remains on the statute book and Señora Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo, the Prime Minister, confirmed only last weekend, after seeing the Pope in Rome, that he and his Government were opposed to introducing any legislation to make it cease to be a crime.

An international conference on the family, organized by Spanish Catholics, now being held in Madrid, immediately condemned the court's verdict. Various extreme right-wing organizations are threatening street demonstrations.

The Bilbao court has significantly changed the issue by emphasizing the "state of necessity" in which the nine women of Basauri found themselves. One told the court that a policeman remarked when arresting her: "To have got an abortion without complications you should have gone to London."

A leading Spanish woman's doctor today estimated there are 200,000 to 250,000 clandestine abortions in Spain, and that 50,000 more women, who can afford it, go to England for safe abortion operations.

The court admitted it was acting without Parliament having got the legislation in 1978 in accordance with the 1978 constitution. In a passage likely to upset the church, the court gave priority to the rights of the women over the foetus as embryonic life.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Man dies as consulate is stormed

Bombay — Fifty people, their motive unclear, attacked the United States Consulate with rocks and petrol bombs and one attacker was shot dead by police. Eight cars belonging to consulate staff were burned but no injuries reported among the American staff.

The attack, 30 of whom were arrested, were said to be members of Shiv Sena, a fanatical group, or members of the Asat Hind Sena (Independent India Army).

Seal killing ends early

St Johns, Newfoundland — Seal hunters, after a smaller than usual annual cull, have put a premature end to the killing of pups amid gloom over official support in Western Europe for a ban on seal products.

Prices went down by 40 per cent after the European Parliament's vote for an import ban.

Sources here said that six Canadian ships operating off Newfoundland had returned to port with only half their quota. Hunters took less than 3,000 out of their fixed quota of 6,000 pelts of hooded seals.

Walkout over Khmer Rouge

Bangkok — The Soviet Union and four of its Asian allies walked out of a United Nations regional economic conference when a representative of the Khmer Rouge addressed the gathering.

The delegates of Cambodia, Afghanistan, Vietnam, Laos and Mongolia joined the Soviet Union in the walkout. They maintain that the Khmer Rouge no longer represents the Cambodian people.

Turtle island turns turtle

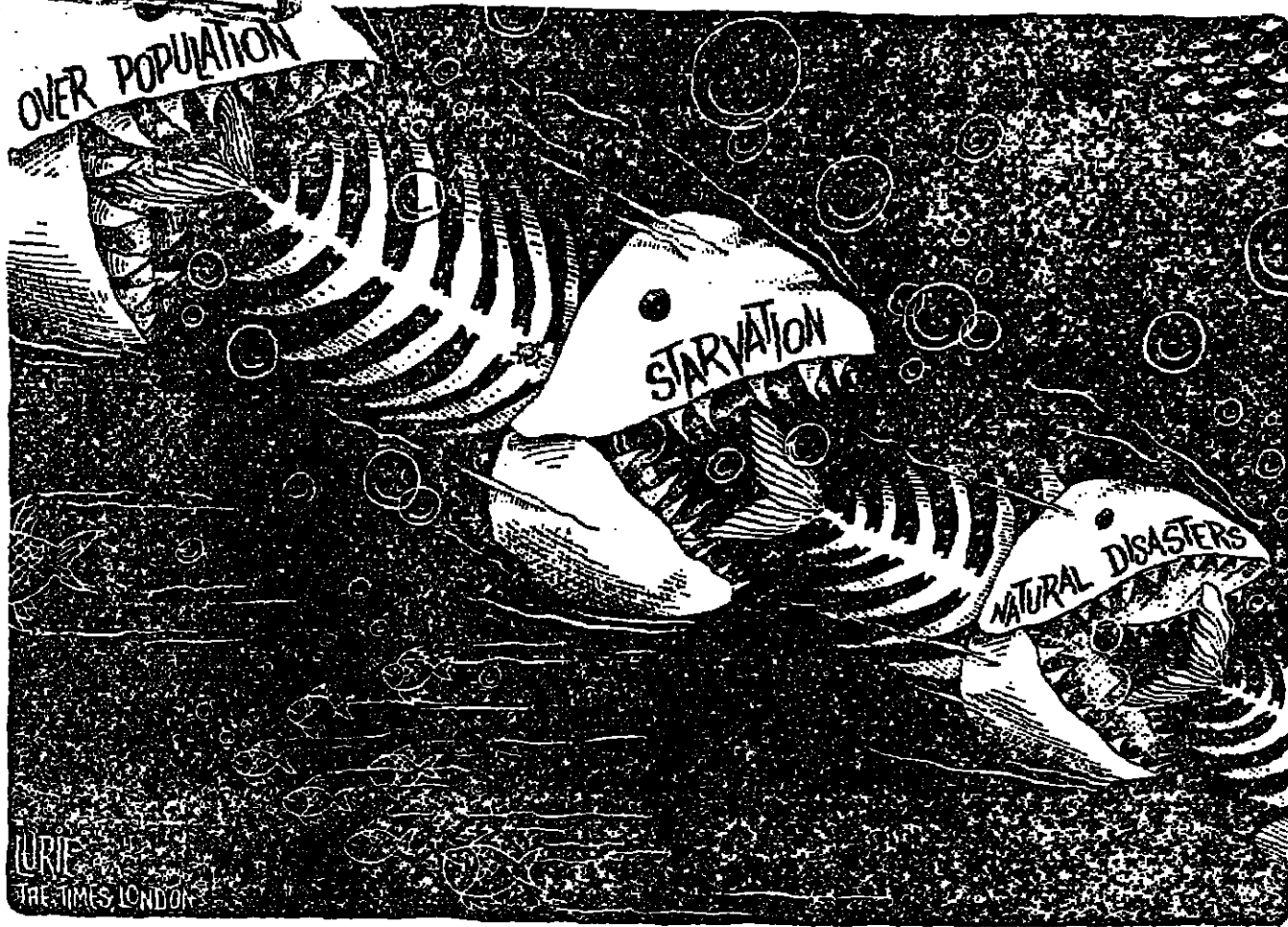
Dar es Salaam — Mazwi Island, off northern Tanzania, which was the main nesting place for sea turtles along the East African coast has disappeared beneath the sea, the Tanzania Daily News reports. Two researchers could find no trace of it nor of the turtles.

Soviet scientist killed in crash

Moscow — Aleksandr Sidorenko, a vice-president of the Soviet Academy of Sciences and a former government minister, was killed in a car crash on Tuesday while visiting Algeria. He was 64. As Minister of Geology from 1965 until 1976 he played an important role in his country's intensive development of oil and other mineral resources.

Red Cross team told to leave

Nairobi — Uganda has asked the International Committee of the Red Cross to leave the country, according to Red Cross officials. The functions of the eight-man team would be taken over by the Ugandan branch of the Red Cross.



Bangladesh coups

Ousted Dacca leader faces execution

By Leslie Plummer

Mr Abdus Sattar, the ousted President of Bangladesh, and his Cabinet face the death penalty in a trial and found guilty of abuse of power or corruption by new martial law courts, Dacca radio announced yesterday.

Spelling out the stern features of martial law imposed after Wednesday's coup by Lieutenant-General Hussain Muhammad Ershad, the Army Chief of Staff, other broadcasts listed martial law decrees banning meetings and "direct or indirect" political activity.

Press censorship has been imposed and all criticism of the regime has been banned. These "anti-state" infractions carry prison sentences up to seven years, while more serious offences, including illegal possession of arms, carry life imprisonment or the death penalty.

Mr Sattar, aged 76, is said to be back at his bungalow and "under police protection" in Dacca, having fled the presidential palace. Until the ominous radio reference emphasizing that former president and vice-president, along with ministers, police and Army officers are liable for maximum sentences in corruption cases, Mr Sattar's name had not generally been connected with the

malpractice allegedly involving some of his colleagues. Meanwhile, unconfirmed reports quote official sources as saying that several political leaders are already under arrest. They are said to include Mr Saifur Rahman, dismissed in February as Finance Minister; Mr Chowdhury Tanvir Ahmed Siddique, former State Minister for Commerce and Mr Auaduddin Khan, former State Minister for Manpower Development.

Three other former ministers were already under arrest on embezzlement charges. They are Mr S. A. Bari, former Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Nurul Haq, former Shipping Minister, and Mr K. M. Obaidur Rahman, former Civil Aviation Minister.

It is not clear whether Mr Abdus Sattar, former Youth Minister and a powerful Bangladesh National Party figure, is in detention. He was held but released recently after a party colleague wanted in connexion with the presidential palace. Until the ominous radio reference emphasizing that former president and vice-president, along with ministers, police and Army officers are liable for maximum sentences in corruption cases, Mr Sattar's name had not generally been connected with the

Poll setback puts strain on Dutch coalition

From Robert Schuil, Amsterdam, March 25

The ruling Dutch centre-left coalition composed of Christian Democrats, Labour and leftist Democrats 66 has come under heavy pressure in the wake of yesterday's provincial elections.

Both Labour and Democratic 66 suffered politically significant losses. For Labour in particular the result of the poll was an electoral disaster.

Significantly the big winner was the conservative Liberal Party, the country's main opposition. Until last May's parliamentary elections they formed a centre-right coalition with the Christian Democrats. Now they are the country's second largest political party in percentage terms.

The final returns of the election in which 705 members of the country's 11 provincial assemblies were chosen, showed that Labour Party had fallen from 28.7 per cent of the national vote to last May's election to 21.75 per cent. Translated into parliamentary terms it means that had this been a general election, Labour would have lost 10 of its 44 seats in the 150-seat Lower House.

In last May's elections Labour already lost nine seats, underscoring how its popularity has eroded since the 1977 general election, when it emerged as the country's largest party with 53 seats.

If the Liberals' climb to 22.2 per cent of the vote in yesterday's election from 17.31 per cent last May is translated into parliamentary terms, they would have

strong that Sir Philip Lynch, the Liberal Party deputy leader, yesterday issued a declaration of support for Mr Fraser after an emergency meeting of the party's ministers.

Mr Peacock today denied he was challenging Mr Fraser and criticized Sir Philip for issuing the statement of support. This has done little to reduce the speculation about electoral defeat would mean the time was ripe for such a challenge.

The Liberals have regained comfortably in Victoria for a generation without having to form a coalition with the National Party (formerly the Country Party, representing

the most conservative forces in Australian politics). But this year has seen immense change on the political landscape in Victoria and both leading parties have, one way or another, found themselves with new leaders.

The Liberal Party's popular Premier, Mr Rupert Hamer, was attacked by business interests who found him too progressive, and on his return from a holiday in Hawaii he took the opportunity to retire prematurely. His place was taken by his loyal deputy, Mr Lindsay Thompson, a diligent, honest, and capable man but with a somewhat dull image.

Shock for Lee Kuan Yew

From David Watts, Singapore, March 25

The image of Singapore as a country united and content through its spectacular economic success has been jolted by confidential soundings taken by the ruling People's Action Party (PAP).

The survey showed that the party leadership has not been receiving accurate feedback from the grassroots, either through poor intelligence or an unwillingness to bear bad news. No details of the survey have been made public. The PAP has always closely guarded details of its organization and methods, but it is understood that the survey showed a greater degree of disaffection with the Government than Mr Lee Kuan Yew, the Prime Minister, had been aware of.

Contradicting the assumption that economic progress equals voter contentment. But what was perhaps more disturbing to the party was that, according to the soundings, many voters are enthusiastic about having an opposition in Parliament. Mr J. B. Jeyaretnam won a seat in a by-election last October on behalf of the Workers' Party and since then Mr Lee and other PAP leaders have consistently warned Singaporeans that more harm than good was likely to come from the advent of opposition in Parliament.

Mr Sinnathambay Rajaratnam, the Second Deputy Prime Minister, was given a warning of the "intellectual dishonesty" of the argument that having a parliament would help the Government to govern better. Noting that Singapore's most rapid progress had been made in the years from 1965 to 1981, "blessed by no factious, querulous, carping opposition in Parliament," Mr Lee recently said that those who wanted an opposition would find that it made no difference, if Singapore was lucky.

"Unfortunately they may discover at great cost, that if we are unlucky, like most developing countries, an opposition can make for confusion by raising false

expectations of unattainable benefits from greater welfare spending, as in Britain, and in so many Third World countries. Instead of sound planning and hard work to achieve the progress of their countries, these opposition groups raise false hopes of easy give-aways from an imaginary pie."

Plainly many Singaporeans do not agree with their rulers on the validity of an opposition. It was two months after Mr Jeyaretnam's victory that Mr Lee ordered soundings to be taken through party chairmen, secretaries, community officials and trade unionists throughout Singapore's 75 constituencies. He wanted to know what the public's assessment of the idea to an opposition in Parliament, its view of Mr Jeyaretnam and on the performance of the PAP. The soundings were taken both on an official party level and privately.

The two strands of the inquiry produced drastically different results. The party soundings recorded general satisfaction with the PAP while private soundings produced a different story. The message that came back was one of welcome for more opposition MPs.

Mr Jeyaretnam's questioning in Parliament has brought out all manner of information which would otherwise have not been available to the public. There is a feeling, too, that he can keep an eye on what the government is doing.

But the government has not won much praise for the way it has been treating Mr Jeyaretnam. The public sometimes find it hard to understand why the government was being so hard on Mr Jeyaretnam "just for asking questions."

The Government has indeed gone out of its way to make sure that Mr Jeyaretnam gets at least as good as he gives. The present parliamentary session has seen government ministers shunning the Workers' Party member who appears unperturbed by the whole thing.

Race for the Senate

Brown fights low profile campaign

From Michael Hamlyn, San Francisco

Governor Jerry Brown of California is now an official candidate for the Democratic nomination for the United States Senate. He embarks on a "low profile" campaign until June when the primary will be held. This is regarded as an almost certain winner of the primary, but what happens in the general election in November is anybody's guess.

The mid-term elections in California have a unique importance. It is the largest state by population and by economic activity. The Governor of California, as the governor of New York used to be, is automatically considered as a candidate for presidential nomination.

Governor Brown missed his chance against Mr Carter, but if he is successful in the Senate election he is young enough at 43, to try again.

The opinion polls, it is true, do show him trailing behind the leading Republican contenders. "When" he was first elected people thought that there was a fresh face, a new kind of figure," explained a Republican Party official. "But he turns out to be just an old-fashioned kind of politician, and not a very good one. He's arrogant, indecisive, and flip-flops [changes his mind] on the issues."

A big "flip-flop" was over the medfly. Should the state of California conduct aerial spraying against the dread fruit pest or not? Governor Brown got into such public torment that Gore Vidal, the novelist, who will also com-

pete against him for the Democratic nomination in June, calls him "the lord of the flies."

The fact that Governor Brown is trailing his probable rival is not at present causing his party a great deal of concern. Mr Peter Kelly, Democratic Party chairman for southern California, pointed out that Mr Brown was in a much worse position at the end of his first term in office four years ago. "No one would have given you anything for his chances of reelection," he said. "But he is a very good campaigner, and he seems to spend most of her campaign decrying his policies. She's expected to lose one of cash before very long and is already finding it difficult to raise more. Her uncle, Mr Neil Reagan, the President's brother, has notably snubbed her by openly endorsing Mr Peter Wilson, the successful Mayor of San Diego.

Representative Paul McCloskey is another front-run-

Arrigo Levi: A Personal View

Berlinguer trapped in vicious circle

When a man does not behave according to his real nature and inclinations, his behaviour is likely to become erratic and he often makes surprising mistakes.

Signor Enrico Berlinguer, the secretary of Italy's Communist Party and a mediator and conciliator, who characteristically labelled his greatest political idea "the historical compromise", has recently tried to prove that he can also be the leader of an embattled party, engaged in a fierce war with all kinds of enemies: the Soviet Union, the Christian Democrats, and Signor Bettino Craxi, the Socialist leader.

In his new role, however, Signor Berlinguer is completely out of character, is making serious mistakes and risks losing his authority in the party.

The latest mistake was to allow the editor of the party newspaper *L'Unita*, a bright but inexperienced young man, to launch a fierce attack on a no longer revolutionary-Democratic, one of them a minister, accusing them of having approached a *Camorra* boss in jail to obtain, through payment of a huge ransom, the liberation by the Red Brigades of their party colleague Signor Cirio Cirillo who had been kidnapped and who was later released.

Unfortunately for *L'Unita*, the document it published and which was supposed to prove the guilt of the two politicians was soon shown to be a poor fabrication, which would have been easily discovered if the editor had not acted in great secrecy and without consulting his senior colleagues.

Even worse, his action had been authorized by one or two of the party leaders, and almost certainly by Signor Berlinguer himself, with most of the members of the party executive and secretariat being kept in the dark. The party had to admit that an "error of judgment and method" had been made, but criticism mounted against the recklessness shown by the party leader in this case as well as on recent other occasions.

These events prove how unsettling it can be for a Communist Party to cut its traditional links with the Soviet Union, which Signor Berlinguer's party has tried to do with determination in reaction to the tragic events in Poland.

Since they came out with a denunciation of the Soviet party and system, by declar-

ing that the Soviet Union had "exhausted its propelling force" in history, the Italian party leaders have been repeatedly attacked as traitors by the Kremlin, *Proleta*, and *Kommunist*.

Signor Berlinguer has already published four increasingly fierce official condemnations of Signor Berlinguer and friends, while trying to make it appear that the Italian party as such could still be saved for the cause of communism, if only it would get rid of its bad leaders.

Signor Berlinguer must convince his rank and file that he is not a traitor to communism. To strengthen his position, he must leave no room to his left for the creation of another party. Soviet communists will come to pass, unless the quarrel with Moscow is patched up.

But Signor Berlinguer has no chance of doing that. So to prove that he, the leader of a "revolution-Democratic" party, must engage in daily battle with the Christian Democrats. He is then forced to take aggressive initiatives which do not come naturally to him, and he is led to make serious mistakes.

This situation is followed with immense satisfaction by all the other parties in Italy. The "Cirillo scandal" is seen, rather than as an accident, as a clear indication of how serious are the tensions inside the Italian Communist Party, and how strained are the nerves of its leaders. The glee at the Communists' difficulties is increased by the holier-than-thou attitude always taken by them towards the other parties.

The political consequences of the "Cirillo scandal" could be serious for the Communists. It is beginning to appear unlikely that the present leadership may survive intact the experience of cutting the party's umbilical cord with the Soviet Union. This was seen by the Berlinguer group as an unavoidable step, but the unfolding of a genuine political drama, which grew out of an unimportant and accidental event but may have vast consequences for Italy's political history.

Sweden reduces bill for salvaging Soviet sub

From Christopher Mosey, Stockholm, March 25

Sweden handed over a drastically pared-down bill for salvaging the Soviet submarine that went on the rocks off its main southern naval base last year to try to improve relations with the Soviet Union.

The bill for the operation in the Karlskrona archipelago came to 1.6m kronor (£160,000) and was officially handed to the Soviet Union last night. At first the bill was put at 2.5m kronor by the authorities, who had already been ordered by the Government to cut back a demand for 5.2m kronor.

The bill was delivered to the Soviet Embassy soon after the Russians had lodged a formal protest to the Swedes over the refusal of a visa to Mr Nikolai Nejland, deputy Foreign Minister of the Soviet republic of Latvia.

The Swedish daily newspaper *Svenska dagbladet* disclosed that the recommendation of the Swedish security police, who accused Mr Nejland of using his position in Sweden to spread communist propaganda.

Mr Nejland, who speaks fluent Swedish, was at his home in Riga, Latvia. "If I have succeeded in spreading communist propaganda in Sweden, then I am extremely happy."

General Lennart Ljung, the Swedish Defence Commander, this week presented to the Government proposed new measures for combating further submarine incursions.

The important post at stake in November is the one that Mr Brown is vacating in the Governor's mansion in Sacramento. The Democratic candidate is almost certain to be Mr Thomas Bradley, the present Mayor of Los Angeles. He is an uninspiring orator but has an impressive record, having balanced the budget in each of the last eight years of his office without cutting services heavily or raising new taxes.

If successful, he would be the first black to be elected governor of any state.

Each of the mayor's two Republican opponents is at present fighting for the party's nomination by trying to show himself as the true conservative. They are Mr Michael Curb, the present Lieutenant-Governor of California, and Mr George Deukmejian, who is a slow, deliberate veteran of public office.

Though the state numerically, Republicans like to think that they get elected to office because of their executive ability. "People say they like the Democrats' programmes so they control the [State] assembly but they think that we are more effective in carrying things out so they elect us to individual offices," a leading Republican said.

Representative Paul McCloskey is another front-run-

ning candidate. He has an attractive honesty, but it got him into immense trouble with Jewish voters when he was quoted as regretting the power of the Jewish lobby over American foreign affairs.

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President Duarte (left) and supporters of his electoral rival, Robert d'Aubuisson

The most misunderstood revolution

El Salvador's vital election takes place on Sunday.
David Browning argues that the achievements of President Duarte's rule have been undervalued by Western opinion

El Salvador is indeed a battle-ground. Unfortunately, the presentation by the media of the nature of the battle being fought there is in large part unbalanced.

The dominant preoccupation of the several hundred journalists now crowded into San Salvador's Camino Real hotel is with saturation coverage of every military action, of every act of terrorism and of the desperate sufferings of the innocent civilians caught in the cross-fire. Such tragedies occur daily and must be reported; but a profound social revolution has been initiated by the present Revolutionary Junta of El Salvador with the support of the majority of the nation's population and its achievements have been sadly neglected.

The need for revolutionary change in El Salvador is self-evident. Agriculture, whether for export or subsistence, is the foundation of the economy and land ownership has constituted the basis of power and privilege. For a century, ownership of land was concentrated in the hands of an oligarchy of less than 3 per cent of the population who controlled the country's income. The majority were obliged to live in poverty as dependent workers on the plantations.

In 1932 this unjust poverty, exacerbated then as now by international economic depression, caused a rebellion of the Salvadoran peasantry. Ruling class fear of rebellion provoked its brutal

suppression and a shift in political power towards the army, which, by military dictatorship and the acquiescence of the oligarchy, ruled the country until 1979.

In El Salvador, as elsewhere in Latin America, it is such injustice which provides the seed-bed for social discontent and popular demands for change. Ironically, the opportunities most favourable to the advance of fascism and communism become greatest precisely at that point where moderate political leaders are able to respond to popular demands for a change.

In such circumstances those whose privilege and power are threatened by reforms will seek to oppose them by reinforcing the tyranny of the right. Those seeking the violent implantation of the Left will oppose a capability for succeeding without tyranny.

In El Salvador, those most culpable for the daily violence and abuse of human rights are groups of political extremists — guerrillas on the Left, death squads on the Right — which both receive material backing from abroad. Neither extreme has the support of the majority of the population.

Their eventual aims are very different but their immediate aims are identical: to destroy at birth the fundamental changes which, for the first time, could give El Salvador democratic institutions based on social and economic justice.

Since 1980, the character and power of the junta have derived from a pact between the Christian Democratic Party (PDC) led by Duarte and those army officers responsible for the 1979 overthrow of the Romero dictatorship. PDC agreement to this pact was given on two conditions: the army reform of itself, and army support for thorough reforms. The first demand has been met in part; with major purges of senior commanders. Realization of the second condition has initiated a process which, may already have become an irreversible democratic revolution.

The keystone of this revolution is an interconnected series of reforms: expropriation of the country's 325 largest plantations and reorganization of these as peasant cooperatives, review of medium-sized estates and landlord-tenant relations; nationalization of the banks and merchant houses and the encouragement of local peasant self-government.

All this could not have been achieved without the support of an army in which traditional attitudes have been transformed and certainly it would have been impossible without the existence of the PDC. The Christian Democrats are a broadly based political movement in El Salvador able to claim consistent opposition over 20 years to the previous power structure. Duarte's personal record is the clearest example of this: three times he was elected as a reformist mayor of San Salvador with increased majorities; in 1972 he was elected president as candidate of a united opposition front, was denied his victory, opposed the military by "violence and was imprisoned, tortured and exiled.

Unlike his exiled colleagues who have become the public spokesmen for the guerrillas, but who do not command them, Duarte voluntarily returned to El Salvador in 1980 to be greeted by 150,000 citizens in the streets of his capital.

These facts underline the importance of Sunday's election. Undoubtedly, this is premature and its proper conduct will be immensely difficult. The guerrillas, though publicly dismissing the elections as a farcical irrelevance, are now using every method to prevent citizens from

voting: direct intimidation, destruction of public transport and bridges, and confiscation at gunpoint of the identity cards required by each voter.

Certainly, the West needs an independent judgment on the conduct of these elections and it is fortunate that, alone among western European nations, Britain will have a direct assessment. But perhaps the surest indication of the importance and validity of this election is that there is no one in El Salvador able to predict what the result will be.

It is not at all certain that the Christian Democrats — which as the "ruling party" is so closely associated with the economic and military difficulties of the past two years — will win a majority in a new Constituent Assembly. A new alliance of parties may emerge. One certainty however, is that a profound popular revolution is occurring in El Salvador and any attempt, by either extreme, to reverse or divert the course of this democratic revolution would be resisted by the majority in that country and would cause El Salvador to sink into a truly civil war.

Dr Browning, Fellow of St Cross College, Oxford, is special adviser to the Foreign Affairs select committee of the House of Commons and has recently returned from a visit to El Salvador.

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David Watt's column will appear next week

Three ways to keep the Apaches from our schools

The independent schools have set up an action committee under the chairmanship of Frank Fisher, the former Master of Wellington, to organize their defence against political attack. It is the latest step in a process that began with the founding of the Headmasters' Conference in 1863.

Schools that have little in common other than their independence and that not so long ago were divided by the unattractive obsession with pecking order that characterized the private sector, are standing shoulder to shoulder like settlers who can ill afford nice distinctions of rank when the Apache appears on the skyline.

Labour — like the Apache — propose to reduce their variously staged threats by the removal of charitable status and the imposition of school fees has weakened the independent sector by putting some schools out of business and making the rest so nervous that they have finished off without public outcry, the charging of any fees for education will be proscribed.

The independent schools are right to take the defence of their status seriously. In the past, the war cries of Mr Roy Hattersley caused a stir, but never looked like being translated into action; dancing round the totem pole of private education was just part of the game. But Labour's mood has changed. It is not simply a question of a swing to the Left. The independent schools, by their enthusiastic welcome to the Assisted Places Scheme, have identified themselves unequivocally with the Conservative Party so that even moderate Labour MPs now find it difficult to argue against abolition.

The Action Committee is concentrating on defence against the first stage of Labour's attack. It may succeed in building what it believes to be a secure legal stockpile, but it is unrealistic to think that Labour on the wayward will be so easily deterred. The only defence that is sufficiently aroused to see an attack on private education as an attack on its own liberty.

That is not the case at the moment, despite opinion polls showing a majority against abolition. It is one thing to say you are against the Apache and quite another to be willing to go to their aid. The challenge facing the Action Committee is how to transform passive into active support.

There are three ways in which this might be achieved. The first is to make common cause with other groups, such as private medicine, who are likely to be next on Labour's list. The committee has already made overtures in that direction.

The second is to prove and go on proving that the independent sector contains schools whose excellence, particularly in the academic field, the country cannot do without. That argument will not impress the Labour Party who persist in the belief that the maintained schools could achieve the same standards if only the independent schools were dead and gone. Like a quick doctor, the Labour Party cures for societies ills. Labour proposes to kill off the healthy in order to encourage the sick.

The third and most important way to win active support is the one to which the independent sector has given least consideration. The principal factor that inhibits popular sympathy is the suspicion that the independent schools are only concerned to protect their own

position and have no interest in the education of the nation's children as a whole. The schools can hardly expect their fellow citizens to join them on the barricades if the only aim is to keep the private sector in the style to which it is accustomed. Public opinion will demand a more unselfish and constructive view of the future role of these schools.

The problem for the independent sector is that the new unity is based on defence; no one is prepared to look beyond the next battle. But unless the schools are seen to be seeking ways of serving a wider national interest, they may lose the next battle for lack of public support.

The national interest in this context is not difficult to define. The reorganization of secondary education, whatever benefits it may have conferred on the majority of children, has in some areas left the more able children without the attention, stimulus and competition they need to fulfil their potential. The plight of the more able children and that does not mean gifted children but those capable of studying for A levels — is particularly acute in those inner city comprehensive where viable groups in A level subjects do not exist.

The heads of independent schools, basing a service to these pupils by aligning themselves with the heads of maintained schools in opposition to the publication of examination results, because publication would reveal the extent to which the country's best pupils are just not available. Though ILEA declines to publish the figures, it is said that between a quarter and a third of its comprehensive sixth forms cannot offer A level courses in maths, physics and chemistry. A similar situation is believed to exist in other cities such as Manchester.

Against this background it is not difficult to see a way in which independent schools can serve the national interest. Within easy reach of these comprehensives are a number of good independent schools whose sixth forms offer viable A level groups not only in the more popular subjects but also in minority pursuits such as Russian and Greek.

It would be comparatively easy to open up these sixth forms to the A-level pupils of the comprehensive schools. No one could accuse the independent schools of "creaming off" the bright pupils because the only pupils to move would be those who could not study the A level subjects of their choice. In this respect the scheme would assist from the ill-conceived Assisted Places Scheme, which does not ensure that the pupils who move to independent schools at public expense really need to do so.

If the independent schools concentrate on the urgent and specific need for A level courses, they could — individually or collectively — raise the money to meet that need by public appeal to industry, trusts and foundations. They would also do much to dispel the cynicism about their motives that the Assisted Places Scheme has provoked. Most important of all they would win more active support from a public that has no particular reason to love the independent sector but might be persuaded to defend institutions that serve a national and not just a sectional interest.

John Rae

The author is Head Master of Westminster School.

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Human dynamo in the Sony system

You almost suspect, on meeting Akio Morita, that one of his identically-dressed aides has just changed his master's batteries and slipped an English-speaking video cassette into a hidden slot in the back of his head.

Although unmistakably oriental between his flowing silver hair and his sharply-cut Italian suit, the co-founder and chairman of the Sony electronics company stands out as one of the most familiar, most westernized and least inscrutable of the Japanese generals who lead their country's assault on western export markets.

Mr Morita is visiting London — for the second time this year — to attend the opening of an exhibition of his company's products at the Bollerhouse, the annex of the Victoria and Albert Museum established to display good industrial design. Sony, founded with £250 in 1946 to make voltmeters, is only the 45th largest Japanese company, and is by no means the biggest in the electronics field. But Mr Morita has built its reputation on innovation, launching products people never previously realized that they wanted. He claims to have been the first Japanese exporter to demolish his country's former reputation for shoddy imitation.

"We feel a responsibility to utilize our technology. We should serve mankind all over the world," said Mr Morita, intoning the company philosophy in heavily accented but fluent English. Serving mankind has included introducing Japan to its first tape recorder, and the rest of the world to the transistor radio, the transistorized portable television, the domestic video recorder, the flat pocket television, and many more.

Transistors were an American invention, thought suitable for use only in hearing aids until Mr Morita bought the patent rights and founded a miniaturized empire on them. The search for new applications is endless; Mr Morita's most recent success was to take a small and simple cassette player, attach a set of headphones, and market it as the Walkman, the indispensable mobile personal music centre.

"I cannot make up my mind whether the Sony reputation is founded on genuine excellence or good public relations," confided Mr Stephen Bayley, the Bollerhouse director who has spent a week politely asserting his authority over a dozen Sony functionaries who arrived from Tokyo with very fixed ideas on how the exhibition should be staged.



Akio Morita: 'We get to know our markets'

Mr Morita is the living proof that the reputation is in fact founded on marketing. He first came to Europe in 1953 (buying three German cameras) and since then has never ceased travelling the world gathering an intimate knowledge of his markets, existing and potential. "It is a fact that Japan's

trade is too one-way. But how many Europeans commute to Japan, compared with the number of Japanese who commute to Europe? I myself have been here four or five times in the last year. We get to know our markets; unless you communicate with the customer, he will buy another thing. Commun-

ication is the most important form of marketing. "Europeans do not travel to Japan, and do not know the market. There will be a market there if they look for it, and a large one."

Mr Morita confessed that, in some ways, his company has been a victim of its own success. "Competition between Japanese companies has been intense for three decades. Always when we introduce a new product there is immediately an imitation."

A much-quoted saying of Chairman Morita is that the typical Japanese company president is old, deaf, and silent. Mr Morita himself, at 61, is patently none of those, and in his early days his aggressive style led Sony into that Japanese rarity, an all-out strike.

"All the members of a company must always work together to make their company competitive. In a Japanese company, everybody knows they are in the same boat. It is not old Japanese tradition; it is a basic principle of the economic system, and a very simple principle. I am wondering why you in Britain have forgotten it."

He departs of much of British industry, although not of Sony's colour television factory at Bridgend in South Wales. And he was

sufficiently impressed by British education to send his two sons to English boarding schools. "I thought Japanese high school had lost discipline. But still your schools keep discipline." Well, some of them.

After years spent living in the United States, Mr Morita now lives in a western-style existence at home in Japan. But he is no arriviste millionaire; he comes from a long line of wealthy sake brewers in the provincial town of Nagoya.

"I am reliably told," confided Mr Bayley later, "that he speaks with a thick Nagoya accent; it's the Japanese equivalent of broad Geordie." Mr Bayley had been banished from his own office while the chairman conferred with the managing director of his British operation, through the "sound-proof glass, it looked deeply serious."

Mr Morita re-emerged to have his picture taken beside one of his latest products, a television system that you buy in pieces, like a hi-fi set, another Morita marketing ploy that ensures separate profits on the television tube, the tuner, and the speakers.

"Now tell me," he said to The Times photographer with a wry smile, "why do you use a Japanese camera?"

Alan Hamilton

THE TIMES DIARY

Whitehall mandarin joins KitKat club

Sir Patrick Nairne, master of St Catherine's College, Oxford, and until last year permanent secretary at the Department of Health and Social Security, is to be a trustee of the Joseph Rowntree Memorial Trust. The trust is concerned with research and development in social policy. It spends £11m a year, but also administers the family fund, set up by Sir Keith Joseph in 1973, for those with severely handicapped children. In that way the trust which Nairne is joining spends about £4m on behalf of his former department.

Nairne succeeds Christopher Rowntree, who is retiring at the age of 75 after 30 years as a trustee. Christopher Rowntree was the last trustee to have known Joseph Rowntree personally. The Quaker reformer and founder of Rowntree Mackintosh, which makes KitKat, was his great-uncle.

Vacancies among the trustees are filled alternately by the Society of Friends and by the trustees themselves. Nairne was elected by his fellow trustees.

Regatta revival

On July 3 Willie Whitelaw is to open the first Windermere Lake Festival since 1929, a revival of a local tradition dating back to the 1790s. Historically Windermere's regattas were grand events. In 1825, they had Sir Walter Scott and George Canning, the Foreign Secretary, with Wordsworth and Southey aboard one barge in the regatta procession.

Swimming exhibitions in fancy dress and aquatic horse races were favourites in Victorian festivals, as was the pursuit of a human "duck" in skiffs. Some of the odd events which are now being revived were on dry land, including a goliath sports day in which the elderly ran races for prizes such as a pair of spectacles or a packet of tea. The old folks' sports will also include a gurneying contest.

Flight plans

On May 15 bitterns, marsh harriers, golden plovers, turtle doves and nightingales in East Anglia all become fair game. Teams from Country Life and the Fanna and Flora Preservation Society will be competing, with the aid of Porsche and Aston Martin cars, for a new British bird-watching record. The object is to spot more than 147 species in 24 hours.

Since the bird-watchers will themselves be watched throughout the day by several television crews as they career from the coast to marshes to Thetford forest and Abberton reservoir, it would not be too surprising if the birds all took cover.

Purple patch

A ghost from Indira Gandhi's past has been haunting official receptions heralding the start of the Festival of India. The appearance of the supposedly disgraced Vidya Charan Shukla, her controversial former information minister, the man who imposed censorship in India during the emergency, has surprised many members of the British Indian community. Shukla, who as president of the All India Badminton Association says he is only here for the All England Badminton Championships, has raised eyebrows even higher by sporting mauve tints in his hair.

Papal dispensation

The Pope will be excused the oath of allegiance to the Queen when he accepts the freedom of the city of Cardiff during his visit to the Welsh capital in June. As leader of the world's Roman Catholics the Pope could not promise his obedience to the Head of the Church of England. And as a head of state he could not swear his fidelity to the head of another. So the oath will be omitted when the Pope becomes the fifty-fourth person to receive the honour.

Off the track

The well-travelled naturalist and intrepid explorer of inaccessible parts of the world, David Attenborough, got hopelessly lost this week trying to get into the reception to launch the Science in India exhibition at the Science Museum.

After emerging from South Kensington tube station, Mr Attenborough was heard to complain: "I can't find my way through the police." Eventually he and a colleague managed to negotiate their way to the reception on the mezzanine floor through the museum's kitchens. Subsequently he had difficulty trying to find his way from the reception to the exhibition on the first floor. The lift kept eluding him.

A splash of paint

By writing about Tom Bramford, PHS does not mean to imply that tomorrow's Boat Race is likely to bring him much extra work. Bramford, now 80, has been hand-painting commemorative oars for Cambridge's victorious rowers since 1923.

Madagascar

From Lord Merthampton and the Treasurer Huddleston Sir, Since January island of Madagascar, exposed to the Benedictine, Elected Gabrielle, driven to the town by mid-February, been falling in to month, in particular, the surrounding districts. In the most districts, namely around the le Madagascar, a north-north-east corner almost with casava plant, and of cloves crop, Th very severely hit. Dykes have severely cut, br severely damaged, 65,000 people are to be homeless in the districts.

Quiz

Questions from this week's news:

1. While the rich got richer, who got poorer?
2. Who went backwards over thin ice to make progress?
3. Who had a dagger plucked out of his back?
4. Who started a forest fire after being blamed for a railway buffers?

Answers on Monday.

Handwritten text in a box at the bottom of the page.

sition and have no interest in the education of the children of a whole school. The only aim is to keep the children in the school and the only aim is to keep the children in the school and the only aim is to keep the children in the school.

The problem for the independent sector is that it is not based on a single issue. It is based on a number of issues, and the only way to keep the children in the school is to keep the children in the school.

The national interest is not a new concept. It is a concept that has been around for a long time. It is a concept that has been around for a long time. It is a concept that has been around for a long time.

The heads of independent schools have done a great deal of work. They have done a great deal of work. They have done a great deal of work. They have done a great deal of work.

Against this background, it is not difficult to see why a high independent school should be seen as a national asset. It is a national asset. It is a national asset. It is a national asset.

If it would be comparatively easy to see why a high independent school should be seen as a national asset. It is a national asset. It is a national asset. It is a national asset.

and collect views but in the end the decision is made by the school. It is a decision. It is a decision. It is a decision. It is a decision.

John Roe, the director of the National Association of Schoolmasters, says that the school is a national asset. It is a national asset. It is a national asset. It is a national asset.

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from this week's. The track is a track. The track is a track. The track is a track. The track is a track. The track is a track. The track is a track.

PHS



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234.

THE BEAM IN THE TUC EYE

September is already drawing uncomfortably close, for the general council of the TUC. At its meeting this week, it managed to get away without making any hard decisions about the plan wished on it by last year's congress to change the structure of the council itself. It is an issue, apt to ruffle the sensibilities of union leaders, and many would be glad to shelve it just when the movement wishes to give the utmost impression of unity for its campaign against the Employment Bill. But congress asked for a detailed scheme of reform to be put before it this year, and if that is to be done, with time for unions to study the plan beforehand, the general council must make up its mind in the next few weeks.

The present system is venerable and picturesque, and when set up some 60 years ago it had reasonable claims to be fair. To ensure that all parts of the movement are represented, it divides members into 18 trade groups, intended to represent similar kinds of work, and assigns to each group one or more seats on the general council, depending on its size. The unions in each group nominate their own candidates, but the delegates of the

whole movement choose them by ballot at congress. Democracy in tiers is never a straightforward matter, but in practice the system has proved inflexible and unduly subject to power-broking. The "trade" groups are adapted to changing labour patterns only slowly. The shipbuilders' union now has only 124,000 members, but it still enjoys a seat, while the transport workers' union, with almost two million members, has only five places. Historical accidents have put unions with similar interests into different groups, and sharply divided ones into partnership. The final ballot at congress gives great power to unions yielding large block votes. Vote-bartering is traditional, and the TGWU in particular has accumulated a string of client members on the general council by supporting small unions with congenial policies for seats in groups where they are not numerically dominant.

In general, the system under-represents fast-growing white-collar unions and over-represents shrinking craft unions. It is not systematically biased to left or right, but tends to perpetuate the influence of unions like Aslef, whose industrial bargaining

power gives them assurance in protecting their own interests, or those of the movement. The plan endorsed by congress last year would abolish the archaic trade groups and guarantee a certain number of seats to unions of a given size. The TGWU and the smaller unions which would lose influence by change will not let it happen without a fight. Lobbying is already intense, and private hints have been dropped that reform might be followed by the creation of an informal grouping in the movement to be a counterweight to a less militant general council. The impulse to push the matter under the carpet this year is strong. Representative arrangements in the Labour movement are so ramshackle that it may seem futile to start at the top, only to enable the general council to reflect more accurately policies approved on the basis of half-empty meetings and ten per cent votes. But the movement cannot plausibly claim that Mr. Tebbit's proposals to encourage greater accountability on matters like the closed shop are insidiously unnecessary, while simultaneously smothering the democratic aspirations of its own congress.

MONEY IS NOT THE ONLY MATTER

It is very good news that budgetary disputes will not be allowed to distract Monday's European summit meeting from the wider and more important problems which the Community ought to be addressing. All too often in the past these meetings have been dominated by British demands for more money. For Britain, this has been an unfortunate necessity, because it is only by kicking up a real fuss that this country has been able to achieve recognition from its partners of the basic justice of its case. But it has been damaging for the Community, not least because the public airing of differences has helped to alienate opinion in Britain and West Germany, the two countries which are net contributors to the budget. In this country, opposition to membership rose to an exceptionally high level two years ago, when the budget issue was particularly heated. The figures in the latest MORI poll, showing a majority of three to two against membership, are less high, but could be related to the return of the issue.

Although Mrs. Thatcher may want to make a reference to the budget at the Brussels summit, most of the time will be spent on other things. There is, after all, plenty to discuss, with the western

economic summit (including the United States and Japan) due to be held at Versailles early in June, and the Nato summit in Bonn soon after. In both areas, it is important that the Community members should have a concerted policy. At Versailles they will want to discuss the effects of high interest rates on the European economies and to take up the question of Japanese resistance to imports, already being raised in Gatt, with Mr. Suzuki. In the area of general foreign policy, they need to unify their approaches to such questions as east-west relations, the Middle East and Central America. They should also take up the now growing debate on the need for Europe to contribute more to its own defence.

Simply to list these topics is to demonstrate the scope of Community involvement, and of its potential influence. It is true that the Ten are still far from having a common foreign policy. There are differences of nuance, or more, on all the major world issues. But over the years they have come closer together, and to the outside world they appear a much more impressive entity than they tend to do from inside. That applies particularly to economic and trade questions, and increas-

singly to matters of general foreign policy.

In the twenty-five years since the Treaty of Rome was signed the Community has not fulfilled all the hopes of its founders. The confidence that was shown as recently as 1972 when, on the eve of British entry, the Nine undertook to move to a European union by 1980, has faded. But the European idea is not dead. What is needed is a greater recognition that the European countries do better if they pool their efforts than they would separately, especially in defence and security. Europe is still unwilling to shoulder the responsibilities in this field appropriate to its wealth, experience and political self-confidence.

All this will still leave some hard negotiating to be done on the budget when the Foreign Ministers meet on April 3, after the summit. For one thing, the crucial question of the actual amounts to be repaid to Britain has not yet been broached. There is every reason to be afraid that Britain's budget difficulties will continue, given the Community's propensity to maintain high levels of spending on agriculture; so it has to be ensured that there is no cut-off of arrangements for compensation.

HIS MASTER'S VOICE

Most confidential public documents that are preserved become open to inspection after thirty years. That is the general rule, but it is not an absolute rule. Even after such a period of time there are some records which ought not to be disclosed for reasons of national security. There are others which should still be kept secret because otherwise distress or danger could be caused to individuals. There is also a third category where the papers contain material that was supplied in confidence and which could not be made public without a breach of confidence.

An element of discretion has to be exercised therefore in applying the rule. This is the responsibility of the Lord Chancellor, and at the moment he is advised in this task simply by the officials of the department which wants to retain the documents in question for a longer period. Almost exactly a year ago,

however, a committee under the chairmanship of Sir Duncan Wilson recommended that he should also be advised by a sub-committee of Privy Counsellors drawn from the Advisory Council on Public Records. This would be a means of ensuring that decisions were not determined solely on the advice of departmental officials concerned to save themselves from embarrassment.

But this proposal has not found favour with the Government. The Lord Chancellor's Department concludes, in an official document published yesterday, that "the most suitable arrangement for supplying the Lord Chancellor with independent advice would be for the Secretary of the Cabinet to assume this role". The use of the phrase "independent advice" in this context may be judged to be either nicely ironic or patently absurd. The Secretary of the Cabinet is indeed indepen-

dent of any particular department, but it is impossible for any department to be embarrassed without a twinge of anxiety for the Government as a whole — which is very much the concern of the Cabinet Secretary. He is also a very busy man with a lot of other things on his mind.

The reason offered for giving him this responsibility is that judgments of when disclosure might be damaging to the national interest require "an intimate knowledge of current policies and developments" which members of the Advisory Council could not be expected to have. But the Privy Counsellors could always take account of the advice of the departmental officials, which would in any case still be available to the Lord Chancellor. But there can be no assurance that civil servants are not simply being timid or self-serving unless he receives some genuinely independent advice.

At the advantages of "pre-lacy". However, I cannot agree with his statement that "the combined strength of nonconformity in England is rather in excess of the Roman Catholic population".

According to *Prospects for the Eighties*, a census of the churches in England taken by the National Initiative in Evangelisation, matters are somewhat different. The 1979 totals for all England are 6,739,000 adult church members; 3,114,000 Protestant; 1,908,000 Episcopal, which means 1,206,000 "nonconformist" adult members. The Roman Catholic figure was 3,330,000. Adult attendances were 3,850,000 total; 2,533,000 Protestant with 1,256,000 Episcopal, which means 1,277,000 adult "nonconformist" attendances. The Roman Catholic figure was 1,310,000.

Yours faithfully,
MERRIVALE,
Chairman, Anglo-Malagasy Society.
TREVOR HUDDLESTON, C.R.,
Archbishop of the Indian Ocean,
House of Lords.

Nonconformist strength

From the Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle
Sir, Like any other bishop, I have a vested interest in Clifford Longley's claims (article, March

Function of police committees

From Mr James Lemkin
Sir, It is timely that questions are being asked about the role of police committees. It seems to be assumed by the Left that police accountability can only operate through reporting by the police to local committees which will control the policy, many senior appointments, and the day to day operations of the police in that area.

Such a programme appeared in the Labour Manifesto for the GLC Elections 1981, and there are signs that certain police committees out of London with powers under the Police Act 1964 are working towards these policies. There is also a move amongst the socialist majority on the Association of Metropolitan Authorities to achieve greater local political control over the police. Many of these steps are not within the framework of the Police Act 1964, nor can they go to the root of good policing which is a matter for the partnership between the public and the police to work for crime prevention. The time has come for the Home Office to reaffirm that throughout England and Wales the Home Secretary is the ultimate political power in respect of the police, that day to day operational matters are for the Chief Constable of the area and that the police committees have no executive role in this regard. The appointment of a Police Committee in London where the GLC Police Committee has no power over the police, further steps are being taken to set up a movement of protest about the police, funded by the GLC. This will lead inevitably to local politicians attempting to interfere with procedures for dealing with complaints about the police, and is certainly aimed at countering the important work set in train in good faith by the Home Secretary

to establish voluntary Police liaison committees in the stress areas of London.
Yours faithfully,
JAMES LEMKIN,
Member of Greater London Council,
Conservative Spokesman on the Police,
The County Hall, SE1.

From Mr Raymond Blackburn
Sir, Police accountability relates only to matters of administration. What matters is law enforcement. Here the police are accountable "to the law and to the law alone". The quotation is from Lord Denning M.R. in *R v Metropolitan Police Commissioner (1968) 2 Q.B. 118*. The other judges agreed. Lord Edmund Davies said that the police owe a duty to the public to enforce the law but it is not a duty which any police authority can tell them to do. This is what police officers are quite rightly taught at police college.

This was the only case in which the judges have used their influence to induce the police to change their minds, and from later experience I regard it as unlikely that they will do so again. I agree that there should be no political accountability. It makes Mr Anderson's suggestion of an independent body the more interesting, but if it were to carry public confidence it would have to be able to pursue investigations with the aid of personnel recruited from outside any police force. Today even the Director of Public Prosecutions is unable to do that even in cases against the police.
Yours faithfully,
RAYMOND BLACKBURN,
50 Homefield Road,
Chiswick, W4.

Ulster Assembly plan

From Sir Philip Goodhart, MP for Banbury (Conservative)
Sir, As you rightly say in your leading article (March 22), on Mr Prior's proposed initiative for Northern Ireland: "Of course, an assembly whose members have nothing much to do except berate the administration and insult its members would be a waste of time and money. It would tend to political mischief".

This in itself is sufficient reason for moving cautiously, but Mr Prior's proposed initiative poses other practical problems which you do not describe so clearly. The Assembly will, it seems, have specialist committees which will be able to question the relevant Ministers and civil servants. These committees are likely to strike a more personal and partisan note than we have been accustomed to at Westminster, and their impact on the administrative machine in Northern Ireland could be important and malign.

It will also not be easy to transfer executive powers to the Assembly, since the Department of the Environment in Northern Ireland, we spent some time discussing ways in which we could give district councils more power over such matters as planning decisions and local improvement schemes. The step-by-step approach that we envisaged presented few administrative problems. It will not be so easy to transfer part responsibility for planning or part

responsibility for roads to a devolved Assembly.

But apart from the political and administrative problems there is an important constitutional issue involved. Parliament should not thrust a particular scheme of devolution upon a Province that does not want it.

In the last Parliament, Conservative voters and Conservative argument forced the Labour Government to hold referendums in Scotland and Wales on their devolution schemes. These expensive and divisive plans were dropped when it was shown that the voters would not support them. It is sufficient to say that it would be astonishing if a Conservative Government were now to force a scheme for devolved government on another part of the United Kingdom without seeking the consent of the voters concerned.

It would normally be best to hold a referendum after a devolution Bill had passed through Parliament, for the debates on the Bill itself could play an important role in informing the public of the merits and demerits of the proposed scheme. As you have noted, however, almost all the Members of Parliament from Northern Ireland seem to be opposed to major aspects of the proposed scheme. In order to avoid wasting Parliamentary time, it might therefore be sensible to hold a referendum after the publication of a White Paper and before a detailed discussion of the legislation.
Yours faithfully,
PHILIP GOODHART,
House of Commons,
March 24.

Polaris and Trident

From Mr Frank Blackaby
Sir, At present, in its Polaris-launched system, Britain has 64 launchers, each with three warheads — 192 nuclear warheads in all. Each warhead is probably of the order of 200 kilotons, some 16 times the size of the Hiroshima bomb. So the total force represents some 3,000 Hiroshima-equivalents.

Against the proposed Trident system, even if the number of launchers is limited to 12, and the number of warheads on each launcher is limited to three, the total number of warheads will be roughly double. Further, given the increased throw-weight of the Trident II, each of the warheads will probably be of the order of 300-350 kilotons. In megatonnage, it presents a trebling of destructive power, compared with the Polaris system. We move up to 10,000 Hiroshima-equivalents.

Meanwhile at Geneva the United States has been pressing the Soviet Union to accept the United States proposal by which the Soviet Union would dismantle all its land-based nuclear missiles targeted on Western Europe.

There is a certain asymmetry here. Insofar as it is sensible to have separate negotiations about long-range theatre nuclear forces in Europe, it is surely rational for the negotiations to take into account Western European missiles targeted on the Soviet Union as well as Soviet missiles targeted on Western Europe.

Let us suppose for a moment that the United States were in the same position as the Soviet Union: that is, let us suppose that in addition to the Soviet missiles directed against its territory, there were also nuclear missiles aimed at North American cities. Would we consider it strange if the United States demanded some kind of parity with these missiles also, as well as with the Soviet ones? Yours faithfully,
FRANK BLACKABY, Director,
Stockholm International Peace Research Institute,
Bergshamra,
S-173 Solna,
Sweden.
March 16.

Cricket and South Africa

From the Secretary of the South African Cricket Union
Sir, The Hon the Member for Isle of Ely (Clement Freud) in a letter to you (March 11) chose some pretty damaging epithets in his assessment of those English and English cricketers now playing a brief series of matches with South African Xis. How would he judge the 50 (yes, 50) English professional cricketers all presently or until recently registered as members with the Test and County Cricket Board who since October have been here coaching and playing with our clubs and provinces?

These 50 cricket coaches spend much of their coaching hours with the non-white players and particularly with the schoolboys. Their predecessors over what is now a full 100 years have been a major factor in maintaining the standards of our cricket and in taking the game into new areas. Are these men the same sort of blackguards Clement Freud would have Graham Gooch and his team so regarded?

If Clement Freud rates Englishmen who play cricket against South Africa as unpatriotic (it though that word had become archaic among your British Liberals) then just how low among his countrymen he places those who come to keep South African cricket alive and viable?

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES FORTUNE,
South African Cricket Union,
PO Box 55009,
Worthington, 2116, Johannesburg.

A fare wage

Professor J. F. Richardson
Sir, When London Transport fares were reduced, the staff had a special increase in wages because their free fare privilege was worth less as a result. Now that the fares have been increased, may we presume that there will be an appropriate reduction in wages? Yours faithfully,
J. F. RICHARDSON,
Department of Chemical Engineering,
University College of Swansea,
Singleton Park, Swansea.

Teachers and the pastoral role

From the General Secretary of the Professional Association of Teachers
Sir, Was it editorial policy or divine intervention that placed your leading article on Dr. Runcie's view of religious education in the *Times* (March 20)? The notion that teachers should have done with the pastoral role and concentrate on purveying knowledge may be appealing to some at a time when parents are inclined to abdicate their responsibilities, but it overlooks what is the true nature of teaching. The mistake is easily made when advice from many quarters might lead one to suppose that what matters is what is taught (the curriculum), how it is taught (streaming or mixing ability), how success is measured (the examination system), the amount of books and equipment available (resources), the size of the teaching force (staffing), and so on. But the truth lies elsewhere.

What is it that remains with young people when they leave school? What residue is traceable within our spirits after all those years of having information directed at us? When we look back, we remember not facts but people. What a teacher does for himself. It is the quality of the individual who stands in front of the class that determines the quality of education. We teach what we are. Caring teachers create caring pupils, and the rest matters hardly. The day the profession advocates what Dr. Harris and his fellow signatories call the pastoral rigmarole, it turns its back on its principal responsibility.

A return to a Christian emphasis in religious education would help to reestablish a sense of personal responsibility for one another among teachers and taught. What the offering of various religious and none as equal alternatives has brought us to is the belief that everyone may choose what gratifies him most. Thereby have we produced a nation committed to a devastating mix of materialism and relativism.

If the long-withdrawn tide of Christian faith is to turn, the teaching profession should be glad of it. Nothing would be more likely to encourage parents to resume their responsibilities, and join with it in offering enduring values to those who hold the future in their grasp.
Yours faithfully,
PETER DAWSON,
Professional Association of Teachers,
99 Friar Gate,
Derby.
March 22.

likely to encourage parents to resume their responsibilities, and join with it in offering enduring values to those who hold the future in their grasp.
Yours faithfully,
PETER DAWSON,
Professional Association of Teachers,
99 Friar Gate,
Derby.
March 22.

From Mr John I. Edmonds
Sir, Your vision of prelates standing their ground and giving voice to a more confident and aggressive Christianity makes for a striking Saturday morning article (*Tide of the Faith*, March 20) but a muddled one in the context of religious education. With a number of other humanists I have recently been studying the Hampshire Agreed Syllabus, which is under consideration in Gloucestershire too. We recognized that the writers of the syllabus did indeed see serving community relations as part of its purpose.

To us, as presumably to them, this seemed a serious enough purpose for any course of education. Why characterize it as patronizing? Similarly, you characterize a reasonable attempt to look objectively at religious and, in a very limited way, non-religious views of education. Why characterize it as patronizing? Similarly, you characterize a reasonable attempt to look objectively at religious and, in a very limited way, non-religious views of education. Why characterize it as patronizing?

As yet you concede that it is not part of the task of religious education to win juvenile converts to Christianity. What, then, can its more serious purpose be? To me, the demands on teachers to achieve Hampshire's syllabus seem almost enormous. It is for others to see that young children lead a Christian life, if that is what they want. Religious education can only attempt to show why some people want this, and what results it might have.
Yours faithfully,
JOHN I. EDMONDS,
Cheltenham,
Cheltenham.
March 22.

Education economies

From Mr David Aaronovitch
Sir, Professor Morris's way of saving money with higher education (March 22) would be, I believe, worse than the Government's own plans. In suggesting that more students should be admitted but all given smaller grants he is proposing to worsen the already intolerable social inequalities within universities by excluding those who cannot acquire extra funds. He then turns to the idea of student loans, describing the American system as efficient. Having just returned from a speaking tour of North American campuses I can assure you it is anything but efficient. Bad debts are rising, basic grants are being cut and part-time jobs, which American students depend upon, are disappearing.

Professor Morris's and Sir Keith Joseph's problems both stem from their joint premise that higher education is indefensible and will inevitably be cut back. I believe universities can be asked to perform vital national functions, thereby ensuring their continued health and prosperity. If universities were directed by a national body, determining agreed objectives, flexible admissions and positive initiatives to deal with social problems, then they could thrive in a new atmosphere of public support and confidence.
The Manpower Services Com-

mission is not being curtailed; rather, the determination to meet real needs has secured it a greatly expanded role in society with consequent funding. There is no reason why universities could not also offer courses and training to deal with the structural unemployment that looks set to remain with us for the future. Both the Government and Professor Morris's plans lead to fewer students from poor backgrounds and greater isolation and elitism in higher education. Only a policy which breaks out of this and secures public support can in the long run save the higher education system from constant cutbacks.
Yours sincerely,
DAVID AARONOVITCH,
President,
National Union of Students,
3 Endsleigh Street, WC1.

From Professor Lord Beloff F.B.A.
Sir, Professor Robin Morris's policy which breaks out of this and secures public support can in the long run save the higher education system from constant cutbacks. There is another way of economically increasing the number of university students. That is for one or more universities to offer the four-year term and two-year degree system of religious education and suggesting that Christianity should continue to be taught not only to Christian but also to non-Christian and even non-religious children. The obvious response may be that he would, wouldn't he? But the serious response is that, if religion is so important and so influential, why can't it look after itself without having special protection in the courts and in the schools?
Far from being an expression of the voice of Christian confidence, as is claimed in your leading article (March 20), isn't it one more attempt to stop the tide of faith running out?
Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS WALTER,
Nationalist Press Association,
88 Islington High Street, N1.
March 18.

Humber bridge

From Mr A. F. Clarke
Sir, We expect some lighthearted entertainment from your third leader (March 17), but it is not time for a newspaper with the reputation of *The Times* to refrain from such superficial comments as you have made regarding the Humber bridge? If, in the United Kingdom in a serious newspaper, we can see the Humber bridge as a symbol of British engineering, serving a long-felt need in Humber and destined to play an increasing part in our national system of communications, it is surprising that foreign journalists, equally superficial, can receive good pay for writing scornfully about the intelligence of the British?

The truth is that the Humber bridge is playing an important part in the development of Humber as the "land of opportunity" as it was described by Her Majesty in the opening ceremony. For the first two months of its use an average of 13,000 vehicles a day were passing over it. The most encouraging feature is that there is steadily growing use by heavy commercial and industrial vehicles.

From an accountant's viewpoint the bridge is far from profitable. There may be some islands of profitability in the sphere of transportation, but they are hard to find. Fortunately, Governments of both main parties had sufficient vision to enable the Humber Bridge Board to construct the bridge. A growing number of our people, within and without Humber, is grateful that the views implied by your leader did not prevail.
Yours faithfully,
F. CLARKE,
Chairman, Humber Bridge Board,
Guildhall,
Kingston Upon Hull,
North Humberdale,
March 18.

Tide of faith

From Mr Nicolas Walter
Sir, Twice this year the Archbishop of Canterbury has defended and demanded more of the traditional hegemony of religion over national life, first in supporting the present law of blasphemy and suggesting that it should be extended to cover not only Christianity but all religions, and then in supporting a policy which breaks out of this and secures public support can in the long run save the higher education system from constant cutbacks.
Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS WALTER,
Nationalist Press Association,
88 Islington High Street, N1.
March 18.

Different complexion

From Mr David Carr
Sir, We learned today from your newspaper that an unemployed labourer who "streaked" on to the rugby pitch at Cardiff was fined £50.
Miss Erika Rowe who performed a similar feat, though with notable differences, at Twickenham received offers of varying types of employment. Is this another example of naked chauvinism?
Yours sincerely,
DAVID CARR,
37 High Street,
Clebury Mortimer,
Salop.
March 23.

Get some real protection from

h 15 Dealings End, Today. § Contain

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

UK 100

UK leads

The United Kingdom's banking centre. This is more than 100 and more than 100 kindred financial institutions in the UK after leaving the rest of the world's international financial institutions.

US invest

The United States' investment in the UK is the highest in the world. The UK is the only country in the world to have a net inflow of US investment.

N Ireland

The UK's investment in Northern Ireland is the highest in the world. The UK is the only country in the world to have a net inflow of US investment.

Machinery

The UK's investment in machinery is the highest in the world. The UK is the only country in the world to have a net inflow of US investment.

ICL

The UK's investment in ICL is the highest in the world. The UK is the only country in the world to have a net inflow of US investment.

LONDON EXCHANGE

The UK's investment in London Exchange is the highest in the world. The UK is the only country in the world to have a net inflow of US investment.

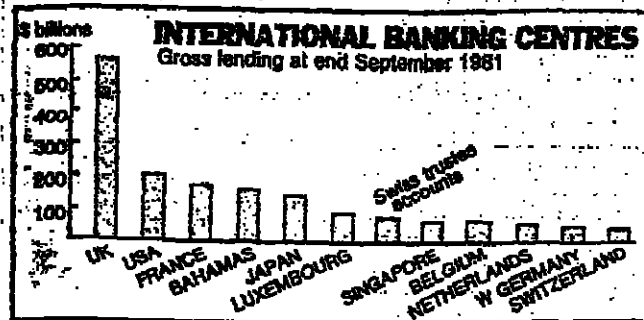
COMMODITIES

The UK's investment in commodities is the highest in the world. The UK is the only country in the world to have a net inflow of US investment.

TODAY

BUSINESS NEWS

UK leads the world



The United Kingdom is the world's biggest international banking centre, with more than a quarter of the market. This is more than twice the share of the United States and more than three times that of France. The United Kingdom has been gaining market share in recent years after losing to newer centres in the early 1970s. But new rules introduced in December to encourage international banking could pose a challenge.

US investment sought

Thirty American electronics companies are discussing further investment in Britain with the Department of Industry. Mr John MacGregor, Parliamentary Secretary of State for Industry, told a conference of American industrialists in London yesterday that Britain is overwhelmingly the preferred location for American electronics companies. Since 1980 five groups have decided to establish manufacturing facilities in the United Kingdom and 12 more have indicated an intention to expand existing British operations.

N Ireland expected to lag

Northern Ireland will recover more slowly from the recession than the rest of the United Kingdom, according to a detailed post-Budget assessment by the influential Economical Council which advises Mr James Prior, the Ulster Secretary. Unemployment will continue to rise by 1,000 a month taking the rate to 25 per cent. A cut in jobs totals is unlikely before 1984, the council says. It calls for more spending on house construction and industrial development.

Machinetool sales down 30 per cent

The machinetool industry's sales were 30 per cent lower in 1981 than in 1980, according to the Department of Trade figures published yesterday. Home sales fell 35 per cent and exports 23 per cent. New export orders, however, remained steady during the year. Engineering industry's sales recovered strongly last year with the order total at the end of 1981 reaching 11 per cent higher than a year earlier.

● Daily production of crude oil by United States petroleum companies totalled 8.7m barrels in the week ended March 22, unchanged from the previous week but up from 8.5m barrels in the corresponding year-earlier week.

New candidate

Herr Ernst Breit, 57, head of the German postal workers' union, is likely to be the next chairman of the German Trade Union Federation (DGB). He was adopted last night as the choice of the 17 DGB unions in place of Herr Alois Pfeiffer who withdrew his candidacy after coming under fire for making personal investments in the West Berlin property market. ● EEC industrialists' confidence in the strength of their companies weakened in February, breaking last year's upward trend, an EEC Commission survey said. ● The Dutch seasonally adjusted index of industrial production in January, 1982, was 97.1 (base January, 1978) in February compared with January.

MARKET SUMMARY

ICI warning hits shares

LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 55.9, down 2.7
FT 100s 68.91, down 0.22
FT All-Share 342.02, down 2.02
Bargains 23,047

Suggestions from the directors of ICI that they may make a cash call to shareholders later in the year pushed shares in the chemical giant down 3p to 318p. The warning, together with concern about the group's petrochemicals division, came at an analysts' meeting when the company said it hoped to restore the 1980 level of 23p a share.

Elsewhere it was trading news and a special situation which added the sparkle to a quiet day of trading, with the FT Index ending the day 2.7 down at 55.9. Four operators D M Lancaster, better known as Club 18-30, put on 5p to 31p as the company admitted it had received a bid approach. Market speculations suggest that this will be at 33p a share but Mr Neil Scott, chairman of Owners Abroad, denied any involvement. Imperial Group shed 1p to 92½p as Mr Geoffrey Kent, chairman, told shareholders that he was confident of seeing much improved pretax profits in the first half of the current year. Glits remained out of favour with losses of up to 2¼ across the board in thin trading.

COMMODITIES

Tin resumed its decline yesterday after a brief period of consolidation. Cash metal tumbled by 50 to end the day at £7,150 a tonne, while three months tin was 584 lower at £7,302. The market was of the continued uncertainty within the International Tin Council about whether to impose quotas on members. Cocoa firmed on near-term supply tightness. March rose £16 to £1,025 a tonne and May put on £10 to £1,026. Dealers are more confident that producers are not about to release cocoa just because other income has diminished.

● The French franc was volatile but most currencies traded narrowly. The dollar strengthened on rising Eurodollar rates, while the pound fell in thin late trading.

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling
\$1.7990 down 95 points
Index 91.4 unchanged
DM 4.3100
Fr 11.2250
Yen 440.50
Dollar
Index 115.2 up 0.4
DM 2.3900 up 35 pts
Gold
\$327.00 down \$5.00

● The Bank bought \$622m of bills outright to relieve a forecast shortage of \$550m. Its dealing rates were unchanged.
Domestic rates:
Base rates 13 per cent
3 month interbank 13½-13 9/16
Euro-currency rates
3 month dollar 14 15/16-15 3/16
3 month DM 9¼-9½
3 month FR 2½-2 7/8

Board meetings: Interims: Caps, Cope Allman, Manson Finance Trust, Pico, Sanderson Murray and Elder, Stover and Pitt. Final: Hanger Investments, Charles Hurst, Molins.

Tough stance gives franc further lift

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, March 25

The franc recovered further on the exchanges at the close of dealing today, confirming the reversal of the downward trend of the past week.

This is partly due to categorical opposition from M Jacques Delors, Finance Minister, to any devaluation or adjustment of parities within the European Monetary System, and to the four point increase in the money market rate in the past 10 days. It was again raised by one point to 18 per cent yesterday.

Additional exchange control measures, including the reduction from one month to 15 days of the delay for repatriation of foreign currency from export earnings, also helped to consolidate the limited recovery of the currency.

While the dollar closed high on the exchanges, at FF6.2445 after 6.229 on Wednesday, The Deutsche slipped to 2.611 from 2.5925.

Sterling was resilient at 11.24. The Bank of France did not have to intervene on the exchange markets.

The dispelling of fears of a crash devaluation after the bad results of the local elections last Sunday also had a beneficial effect on the Paris Bourse, where shares rose by an average of just under 1 per cent.

The Bank of France is prepared to raise the money

market rate still further to attract investors and defeat speculators. The reversion to high interest rates, however, is a double-edged weapon. It could lead the banks to seek authorization to increase their own lending rates, a step that would diametrically oppose the Government's policy of encouraging investments and stimulating economic activity, but the defence of the franc is the first priority.

The slowdown of economic activity in January is confirmed by the latest figures of the government's statistical office, which show that industrial production fell by 3 per cent compared with December, after three months of a sharp recovery at the rate of 4 per cent a year.

But M Delors remains confident that the gap will grow by 3 per cent this year, and industrial production by 4 per cent.

The dollar strengthened behind higher Eurodollar deposit rates as worries grew yesterday that American interest rates could rise in the near future. Today's United States money supply figures are expected to show a small increase rather than the hoped-for fall and the month of April could see a bulge in monetary growth because of the timing of social security payments and tax rebates.

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Nigerian move puts £250m in jeopardy

By Peter Hill, Industrial Editor

Up to £250m of business could be lost to British companies as a result of the virtual freeze on all imports imposed earlier this week by the Nigerian government. The nation is one of Britain's largest markets, with British goods accounting for more than one fifth of the country's non-oil imports. Total shipments from the UK last year were £1,500m.

The £250m estimate was made yesterday by the Federation of British Industries, which said that thousands of large and small companies would be affected by the two-month moratorium on imports. In addition the Nigerian subsidiaries of British companies may face difficulties in importing parts and spares.

Leading companies trading with Nigeria include Dunlop, BL Turner and Newall, Lever Brothers, the United Africa Company, Paterson Zochonis and the Wellcome Foundation. Companies with goods awaiting shipment to Africa's most populous nation are being advised not

to send them without a credit note signed in London. Meanwhile, according to agency reports from Lagos, the Nigerian capital, government officials have attempted to reassure foreign suppliers that contracts signed before this week's decision will be honoured. The Nigerian Central Bank has been forced to order commercial banks to halt the issue of letters of credit and the processing of foreign exchange applications.

The action has been taken against the background of falling oil production, which has been halted to £30,000 barrels a day in the past week, and the sharp drop in oil revenues. Faced with the slump in world oil prices Nigeria's foreign exchange reserves have been seriously depleted to £2,800m enough to cover imports for only two months.

Professor Green Nwankwo of the Nigerian Central Bank was quoted by Nigerian newspapers as saying that imports for which paperwork had been completed before the directives were issued would be unaffected.

British Steel Corporation is to be the first nationalized body to be set strategic objectives under the Government's latest plans for improving efficiency and performance in the state sector. Talks between senior Whitehall officials and BSC executives on the organization's corporate plan up to 1984-85 have reached an advanced stage. Announcements on the corporate plan for the new financial year and on the strategic objectives are expected after the Easter recess. BSC will be a model for other industries including British Shipbuilders, the Post Office and British Telecom.

US loan rates cast shadow on world economies

Bank cautious on recovery

By John Whitmore

The Bank of England is taking a cautious line in its view of prospects for economic recovery this year and warns that any sizeable rise in international interest rates would increase the difficulties for companies and tend to make economic growth this year less likely.

But the latest edition of the Bank's Quarterly Bulletin makes it clear that in general the economy is now in a better position to respond favourably to an increase in demand. Although the Bank gives no specific forecast of its own for the economy, its assessment places considerable emphasis on the uncertainties surrounding the course of international interest rates, exchange rates and oil prices.

The Bank says there could be continued upward pressure on United States interest rates this year as a result of a combination of a large federal deficit and economic recovery. However, it adds that the United States authorities are aware of the disadvantages of the high interest rates and the way in which they can have a sharp impact on economic activity.

The Bulletin points out that high United States interest rates place other countries in a considerable dilemma. They have either to accept higher interest rates themselves, with harmful

consequences for economic growth, or a fall in their exchange rates, with harmful inflationary effects. But the Bank adds that to the extent that it is possible for European countries to maintain a degree of parallelism in their interest rates, this should ease the conflict between internal and external considerations and help to keep interest rates lower.

This appears to mean that the major European countries should recognize their joint interest and consult each other. The Bank says that any united action on interest rate policies would be difficult to operate because of the differing market factors and political sensitivities.

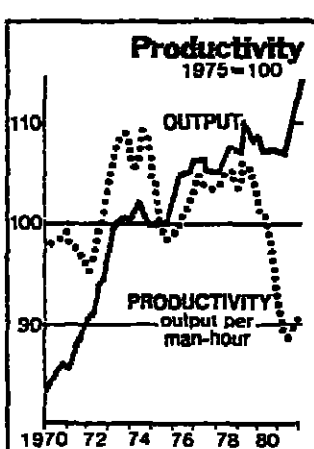
On the domestic economy

The Bank says that, despite the forecasting difficulties imposed by the forecasting difficulties imposed by the problem of pinpointing exactly where the bottoming of the recession occurred last year, most forecasters agree that output should continue to grow in 1982.

The bank says that although the projected fall in the PSBR as a proportion of G.D.P. continued to reflect a cautious fiscal stance, the Budget changes meant that prospects for output were higher, and for inflation lower, than they would otherwise have been.

The Bulletin notes the encouraging trend in wages, prices and productivity. But while commenting that exports grew more strongly than expected last year, it notes that the performance of non-oil exports over the past two years has been less good. Over that period exports of manufactured goods have fallen slightly while world markets have grown by about 3½ per cent.

The Bank also expresses concern about the high level of import penetration. This, it says, cannot be explained either by movements in competitiveness or by the long established tendency for imports to rise over time irrespective of changes in competitiveness and domestic demand.



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Three directors join ACC board

By Drew Johnston

Three directors have been appointed to the board of Associated Communications Corporation, the property and entertainment group where a bitter takeover battle is being fought between Mr Robert Holmes a Court's TV Enterprises and the privately owned Heron Corporation.

The three are Sir Michael Clapham, Mr Michael Edwards and Mr George Preston. They replace the three directors who left the board earlier this week. Two of these, Lord Matthews and Sir Leo Pliatzky, quit after an unsuccessful attempt to remove Mr Holmes a Court as chairman.

The third director, Sir Max Aitken, who was not party to the boardroom row, retired through ill-health. The new men were selected for their posts through ACC's advisers, Standard Chartered Bank. Sir Michael Clapham, aged 70, is a former deputy chairman of ICI, and is also former chairman of the Birmingham Post and Mail. He is a substantial institutional shareholder in ACC with about 5 per cent of the equity.

Mr Edwards, 56, is a former managing director of BSC (International) and is provost of the City of London Polytechnic. Mr George Preston, 73, a Bank of England official for 20 years, is a director of the London board of the Bank of New South Wales. He retired two years ago as a director of Standard Chartered Bank.

All three have asked to waive their directors' fees until the future ownership of ACC is agreed by the company's shareholders.

Mr J. L. D. (Pat) Gailey, president of the Machine Tool Trades Association (MTTA) (joint organizers of the show), said: "We have not had any formal complaints from overseas exhibitors but some of the home-grown variety have told us that it was about time somebody stood up and shouted for Britain." An eve-of-show call by Mr Kenneth Lane, director-general of the MTTA, for a 50 per cent surcharge on imports of Japanese numerically controlled machinery had already upset some of the Japanese exhibitors who felt there was a concerted anti-Japanese move by the MTTA.

Mr Michael Edwards

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Mr Michael Edwards

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Fred the robot is school star

These boys from Trinity School, Carlisle, won one of the five star prizes in the Department of Industry's second schools computer competition with a computer-controlled robot called Fred. The other winners were from Brantree, Essex, Norwich, Sandwell, West Midlands, and Port Glasgow. One hundred schools won microcomputers in the competition, but these five schools also received a graphics board and the required computer programs, a colour monitor and a printer. Five special schools, at Biggleswade, Bedfordshire, Cambridge, Cirencester, Coventry and Belfast, will receive systems adapted for their use.

BSC to be efficiency guinea pig

By Our Industrial Editor

After the appointment in 1980 of Mr Ian MacGregor as chairman, broad strategic objectives were set, including the restoration of BSC to profitability, cost reductions, and the hiring of some of its activities to the private sector.

But formal agreement of the strategic objectives have yet to be reached against the background of the measures outlined this month by Industry Secretary, Mr Patrick Jenkin.

Meanwhile, discussions on the 1982-83 corporate plan are continuing against the background of the revised assessment submitted by BSC following the effects of this year's severe winter and the move by the United States Administration to curb the level of European steel imports.

Mr MacGregor has been pressing for an external financing limit for next year of £70m-£80m higher than the provisional ceiling of £50m set last autumn and confirmed this month in the public spending White Paper.

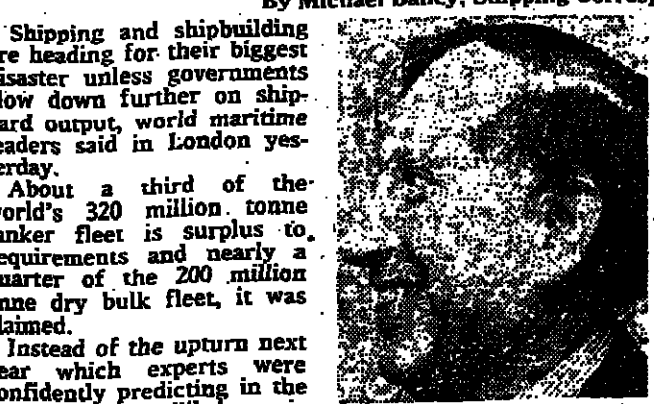
Redpath Dorman Long International announced yesterday that it has signed an agreement with South Korea's Hyundai Engineering & Construction Company to provide engineering services for the construction of a new cable-stayed bridge.

The situation is so bad that some oil companies may have to consider pulling out of tanker owning. Mr Ronald Ilian, managing director of BP Tankers, said.

Oil companies' fleets were expensive because of their high safety standards and existed to protect oil companies against market fluctuation but now they were a cash drain with no prospects of improvement for years.

The forum concedes that with 30 million tonnes of shipyard capacity for little over 10 million tonnes demand it is not easy to stop governments supporting their shipyards on which many jobs depend. Mr Jim Davis, the IMIF chairman, said: "The present policy of subsidies is not getting the world anywhere. Everybody does it, and nobody benefits. It just produces more ships that make the situation worse."

In these circumstances the International Maritime Forum (IMIF) representing shipping, shipbuilding, oil and banking interests, decided to renew their appeal to governments to cut down on shipyard subsidies and to back a fresh drive for accelerated scrapping of surplus ships.



Ronald Ilian: warning over tanker-owning

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Fairview Estates plc

Interim Statement - 6 months ended 31st December 1981

	6 months to 31 Dec 81	6 months to 31 Dec 80
Turnover	£000 14,784	£000 11,737
PROFIT BEFORE TAXATION	2,827	2,700
Taxation	(454)	(1,362)
Profit after Taxation	2,363	1,338
Interim Dividend (Amount per Share)	447 (1.328p)	411 (1.265p)
Earnings per share	7.0p	4.1p
Net Asset Value per Share	149p	144p

* Adjusted to reflect audited tax charge

INTERIM DIVIDEND

An interim dividend of 1.328p will be paid on 7th May 1982 to Shareholders registered on 15th April 1982. This represents an increase of 5%.

PROFIT & PROSPECTS

The Company's contracted rent roll is now £3,900m. Good progress in creating a balance between industrial and other investment properties in the portfolio is being made by the development of office and retail investments.

The housing business has improved from a very poor winter period but it is too soon to tell if the recent reduction in interest rates will consolidate this improved market into a base for further growth.

By virtue of the underlying property assets, the Company remains in a strong financial position.

D. J. Cope, Chairman

25th March, 1982

Creating places to work, places to live.

Fairview

PEOPLE
Julia is
playing
her part

BUSINESS NEWS/FOCUS AND COMMENT

PEOPLE

Julia is playing her part

Part-time Careers (PTC), the innovative, all-female firm which handles what its name suggests, has just reported a three-fold increase in business for the nine to February over the previous nine months' period.

According to PTC managing director, Julia Macdonald, the reason for this dramatic upturn is that employers are still reluctant to commit themselves to hiring full-timers, even though the recession appears to be slowing.

"This is especially true of many smaller but fast-growing professional and commercial companies who find that part-time employees give greater loyalty and productivity than their full-time colleagues, in addition to the obvious financial saving," says Mrs Macdonald, 38, who is the only full-timer among London-based PTC's five-strong staff.

There is of course no sex bias and no upper age limit with Mrs Macdonald, who is presently seeking work for a sprightly ex-Foreign Office secretary on the mature side of 80. "No, I haven't found her a position yet. But I shall. I enjoy the challenge."

● If a sense of humour is a *consequence of Lord Thomson of Monifieth will stand in good stead when he joins the board of the Royal Bank of Scotland Group on April 1, following several years as a director of one of the group's constituent banks. "A joke's*



character and a very bright boy indeed" is how Mr. A. W. Barnes, former editor of *The Daily Express*, describes the future peer when, as plain George Thomson, he was on the staff of the children's comic in the late 1930s. Although no hint of his Socialist beliefs were apparent in the office, his talent and ambition were. After three years, he became chief sub-editor.

Masterful Mortimer

At the height of the brouhaha over the future of the Council of Engineering Institutions (CEI), doubt existed about whether the organisation would need another chairman. Nevertheless, less than two weeks into the chair is Gerald Mortimer, the mining engineer who was deputy chairman of Consolidated Gold Fields for almost 10 years to 1978 and who is, at 63, busy as a consultant.

The Government's new Engineering Council looks unlikely to take over for a couple of years any substantial part of the functions fulfilled by CEI. So Mortimer may well have a relatively quiet year of stewardship, and also seen in as his successor Dr Wilfred Eastwood, a structural engineer and consultant.

BSM tends its potato patch

Ever since its formation, the independent British School of Motoring (BSM) has been what could be termed a single-lane company. Now the outfit is gearing up for its first major diversification in its 72-year history.

The chosen route is fast food, which BSM is entering with a venture that rejoices in the neo-English name of Spud U Like, based on — what else? — the baked, stuffed potato.

Master-minding the move is David Acheson, managing director of BSM, which already runs three of the 16 Spud U Like parlours in Britain. This total should be almost doubled by the end of the year mainly through franchise growth, says Acheson, who spent 16 years with Wimpy and Kenricky Fried Chicken.

Nicholas Cole

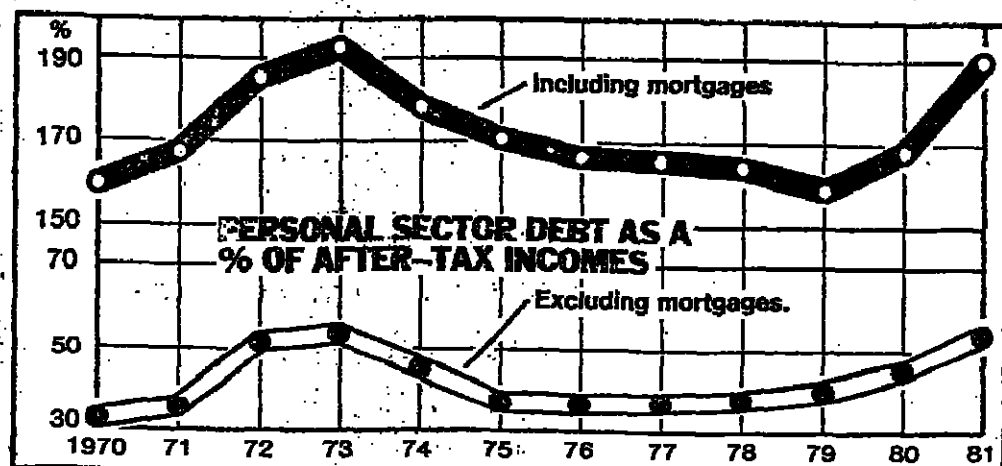
NEW APPOINTMENTS

Mr Donald Wilson has been appointed managing director of Rank Xerox UK. Mr R. N. Doidge-Harrison has been appointed director responsible for packaging and coil-coatings of International Paint-Industrial Coatings. Mr C. D. Mella is director responsible for industrial paints and Mr D. Saaw is appointed manufacturing director.

Mr Ronald Heron has been appointed director of public affairs of the Davy Corporation.

Frances Williams

Personal borrowing hits a peak despite the dole queues



Last year, while real incomes fell, unemployment rose by nearly 700,000, and interest rates were close to all-time highs, people in Britain borrowed more than they have ever done before.

Total lending to the personal sector rose by a fifth or some £15,000m, equivalent to nearly 10 per cent of total after-tax incomes.

As a proportion of income, personal debt at the end of 1981 was back to the heights last reached in 1973 at the top of the "Barber Boom" when credit abounded as the Heath Government made its notorious dash for growth (see chart).

Estimates by stockbrokers Laing and Cruckshank put personal debt outstanding last year at about 55 per cent of total after-tax incomes, excluding mortgages, and 150 per cent if loans for house purchase are included. At the end of 1980 the corresponding figures were 45 and 170 per cent.

But back in 1973 real incomes were soaring, unemployment was dropping and interest rates were several points below 1981 levels and barely positive in real terms, bearing in mind expected inflation.

Last year's remarkable surge in consumer borrowing helped the government to offset the impact of a further drop in people's real incomes on consumer spending.

On the other hand the Treasury seems to want this fall in the savings ratio to come about through a reduction in personal savings rather than an increase in borrowing.

The fall last year in the savings ratio would have been far larger if people had not saved more as well as borrowed more. The ratio of liquid assets to personal after-tax income, for example, is the highest for several years.

The problem with extra borrowing is that it has helped to drive a coach and horses through the government's monetary growth targets in particular by swelling the volume of bank lending. Further, to the

extent that monetary targets are being adhered to, a high level of personal borrowing is likely to keep interest rates higher than they would otherwise have been. This, ministers fear, could inhibit borrowing by companies necessary to fuel industrial recovery from recession by financing stocks and investment.

These fears should be put in perspective. Bank lending to the personal sector (which includes unincorporated businesses) has indeed been the most rapidly growing segment of their business, and mortgage lending — which amounted to two-thirds of personal lending in the three months to February — has shown the biggest rise of all. Yet the personal sector as a whole still accounts for only a fifth of all sterling bank lending.

In addition, traditional lenders to consumers — hire purchase firms, finance houses and retailers — have been losing business to the banks. So of course have the building societies.

Bank lending is an important component of sterling M3 which, until the budget, the government's main target measure of money supply. So the banks' increased share in consumer lending was a factor, though not the only one, in that target persistently overshooting.

But from now on the government is adopting targets for both narrower and broader measures of money. The broad measure includes virtually every financial institution including building societies.

So who actually does the lending should matter less in future, even if the total amount is still of concern. What then is likely to happen to the total in the coming year? Predictions tend to be based on three principal hypotheses.

The first is known as the "permanent income hypothesis". When people's real incomes change, either up or down, it takes a while for them to adjust to new living standards. In addition, people are naturally more reluctant to take a cut in living standards than to increase them. So when incomes fall they try to maintain their original standards as long as possible by dipping into savings or borrowing. This will be especially true if they think the fall in income is likely to be only temporary.

Over the three years 1977 to 1980 real after-tax incomes fell by nearly 20 per cent, while national output went up by just 2½ per cent. By 1981 people had got used to the idea of rapidly rising living standards.

When, at the start of 1981, real incomes began to fall, three things happened. First, people kept on borrowing to finance an expected increase in living standards which their incomes no longer justified, so debt ratios rose. Second, people could not easily raise down-existing debts which had been built up steadily over the three preceding years. Third, the overall borrowing pattern disguised a growing dichotomy between the experience of different households.

The top 25 per cent of income earners suffered a fall in real incomes from last spring, rather later than others. They are also in general the heaviest borrowers and the ones who rely most on bank lending. A big increase in their borrowing has greatly outweighed reduced borrowing by many other households. Hire purchase and mail order credit, used more by lower income groups, for instance, has fallen sharply over the same period.

The fall in overall real after-tax incomes is anyway in large part due to the rising number of unemployed. Those in work have not suffered much loss of real income so far and many are better off than ever. Thus retrenchment by those now jobless (who may also be drawing on savings to keep up living standards) may have been disguised by borrowing by those in work.

Laing and Cruckshank believe that "at current levels (of debt) consumers are over-gearing, over-extended and over-bought". They expect borrowing to fall away this year as real incomes continue to drop and households decide not to renew loans when they fall due or borrow any more.

Messels also believe that, contrary to appearances, high interest rates do discourage borrowing. Increased borrowing last year was, they suggest, partly because of the huge prior increase in real incomes and partly because of aggressive marketing tactics by the banks. These factors may not persist into this year.

Messels point out that older and more affluent households tend to be net savers while younger poorer ones are net borrowers. The pattern in 1982 could be for those with money to keep their savings high to take advantage of the interest to be earned, while the young are forced to cut back on borrowing.

It is the growing gulf between the haves and have-nots which could well hold the key to what is likely to happen to saving and borrowing over the coming year. With Sir Geoffrey Howe's budget again favouring the affluent, the clever money should perhaps be on a repeat of last year: more money borrowed outweighing more money saved, and stable consumption disguising rising living standards for the lucky and falls for the rest.

At the same time the secretary will transmit an electronic copy of each addressee's mail to his or her display screen. After the executive has read a letter, it is given a number of keywords which are stored in the Megadoc database and which correspond to its address in the archive (for example groove 1901, sector 5, disc 180).

If the recipient wants to call up a particular letter a few months or years later, he types in the keywords, which should enable the system to trace the document within five seconds.

The real significance, in Mr Poor's view, is that laser discs are the first electronic storage system that does away with the need to keep office files. He believes that optical storage will work out at about one twentieth of the cost of typewritten paper.

Philips's Megadoc, an experimental application of laser recording, shows how a company could put all its written documents on to optical discs and throw away the paper. It features a reader that can scan an A4 page within a second, transforming the information into about four million electronic bits. A transfer memory, with an input and output rate of four million bits per second, holds the information temporarily before it is fed to the laser recorder which makes the discs.

The laser player reads back the documents on to a flicker-free 2400-line display screen. Fine details, including handwriting and pictures, are reproduced "without a single detail being lost," Philips says. Of course a hard copy can be printed out if an old-fashioned paper addressee wants one.

If Megadoc is used to store information from paper documents, each disc — about the size of a long-playing record — can hold 25,000 pages. Its capacity to store information generated elec-

SAVING AND BORROWING		liquid assets as % of p.d.i.		outstanding debt as % of p.d.i.	
real personal disposable income	savings ratio	as % of p.d.i.	excluding mortgages	including mortgages	
% change from year earlier	(savings as % of p.d.i.)				
1980 Q1	2.5	14.1	2.51	47.3	164.2
Q2	1.2	15.9	2.5	42.5	162.1
Q3	3.1	16.9	2.52	41.3	163.1
Q4	-0.9	16.4	2.59	45.2	168.9
1981 Q1	0.4	15.3	2.66	47.8	175.3
Q2	-1.8	13.7	2.71	50.7	182.7
Q3	-3.0	14.3	2.72	52.5	183.3
Q4	na	na	na	54.8	191.4

Source: Economic Trends, Messels, Laing and Cruckshank.

Planning the demise of the filing cabinet

TECHNOLOGY: VIDEODISCS

By Clive Cookson

Launching videodiscs on to the consumer market is proving an expensive and frustrating business for Philips, the Dutch electronics giant.

Sales of discs and players in North America, where the LaserVision system has been available for nearly three years, have been very disappointing, while the British launch has been postponed progressively because of manufacturing problems at Philips's disc factory in Lancashire, the latest target date is May.

But Philips could still make a fortune out of the technology on which LaserVision is based, even if the system flops on the consumer market. For the greatest potential of laser recording probably lies not in the home but in the office, where it seems likely to become the most compact and cheapest technique for storing vast quantities of information, including computer data and written documents.

The Philips Research Laboratories in Eindhoven have already produced an experimental electronic archive, called Megadoc, which can record and store the contents of 1.5m A4 pages within the space of a normal office desk. The equivalent amount of paper would fill a row of filing cabinets 60 metres long.

A week ago Philips announced a joint venture with Control Data, the American computer company, to do more work on laser recording systems. The partnership will run two labs: the "optical media laboratory" managed by Philips at Eindhoven will concentrate on the discs themselves, while the "optical peripherals laboratory" run by Control Data in Colorado Springs will develop the machines to record and play back the discs.

The two companies are looking for short-term returns. A Philips spokesman said the aim was to put a commercial system on to the business market within two years.

Many other companies are also racing to apply laser recording to mass information storage. Indeed the line-up is longer than in the consumer videodisc market.

Another notable partnership involves Thomson-CSF of France with Xerox of the United States. They have been teamed up since 1980 and also aim to launch a commercial product within two years. Toshiba and Matsushita of Japan and RCA of the United States are among the other companies known to be developing optical storage systems.

All the systems depend on a laser with an extremely fine beam (about one thousandth of a millimetre in diameter) flashing off and on for one ten-millionth of a second or less. The intense light "burns" microscopic marks along a spiral track on the disc's sensitive recording medium, and the pattern of marks stores the information in the binary code (on and off) used by computers.

However there are major differences between the sensitive media used by the companies. The Philips recorder burns holes into a line layer of the rare metal



The Philips Megadoc system — 25,000 pages on one disc

tellurium. The play-back machine also has a laser powerful laser, which reads out the information as the difference in reflection between the holes and the flat metallic surface.

On the other hand Thomson-CSF uses a sensitive polymer which decomposes to a gas under laser illumination. The gas pushes upward against a metallic surface to create a tiny bubble or blister, instead of a hole.

Supporters of the bubble technique claim that it can give a more permanent record than the burning of holes. Its metal layer is not affected directly by the laser and can have a high melting point; it is therefore inherently more stable than reactive low-melting materials like tellurium. The latter have to be sealed very carefully within a glass sandwich to prevent moisture getting in and ruining the tellurium.

None of the laser systems now in the final phases of development have erasable discs; they record the infor-

mation permanently like a photograph. That is a major difference from the magnetic tapes and tapes that can be re-used over and over again.

Although inability to erase may sound like a drawback, the permanence of optical storage will be an advantage in many potential applications. In place of erasable discs, the user gains what Americans call archivability. Information stored on an optical disc will be regarded like ink on paper and unlike magnetic discs or tape which can be easily altered.

Optical storage will be the decade's biggest single development in office technology, according to Mr Victor Poor, vice-president for research and development at Datapoint, the American business systems company. He speaks with relative impartiality, since his firm is not developing a laser disc system (although it will certainly buy in the technology to incorporate in Datapoint products).

The real significance, in Mr Poor's view, is that laser discs are the first electronic storage system that does away with the need to keep office files. He believes that optical storage will work out at about one twentieth of the cost of typewritten paper.

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Business Editor

Sounding a note of caution

To the extent that one can detect an independent Bank of England, the economic prospects this year — and it is harder than usual in the latest edition of the *Quarterly Bulletin* — it is probably rather more cautious than that of the Treasury.

(The Treasury, of course, has been forecasting a rise in GDP this year of 1½ per cent.)

Perhaps the Bank's caution is based largely on a perfectly legitimate uncertainty about how the world economy is going to shape up, together with a certain amount of puzzlement about the behaviour of certain aspects of the British economy.

As far as Britain specifically is concerned, the Bank finds it difficult to explain on conventional criteria the extent of the rise in import penetration over the past two years. But it is clearly a factor that worries it; and in a similar way there is concern to emphasize that an apparently encouraging performance on the export front over the last year looks decidedly less impressive when put in a two-year context.

Elsewhere, the Bank obviously feels uncertain as to whether the personal sector savings ratio will fall sufficiently to offset the impact of lower real disposable income on consumer spending; and it would seem to have doubts too as to just how strong the swing in the stock cycle will prove.

But if the Bank feels uncertain as to just how steady a recovery we are likely to see this year, it clearly feels fairly resigned to seeing growth in private sector (and particularly industrial and commercial) loan demand remaining at a relatively high level.

North Sea oil Bank's view

Is de-industrialization a necessary consequence of North Sea oil? Yes, says John Kay of the Institute for Fiscal Studies who, with Peter Forsyth, has argued that the relative share of manufacturing must contract because we no longer need to export manufactures to pay for oil imports.

A high savings rate, then the painful but inevitable means of bringing this about.

No, says the Bank of England, which has followed up its riposte to Kay and Forsyth in the Governor's 18th March Lecture, nearly 18 months ago with a detailed article in the *Quarterly Bulletin*.

What North Sea oil has done, says the Bank, is to insulate us in large part from the need to adjust our economy in the face of successive hikes in oil prices. Britain will not have to de-industrialize as the Bank. Other countries would have to devalue more resources to manufacturing to pay for their more costly oil imports. This was an adjustment which Britain had been spared.

As for the exchange rate, this has been influenced more by relatively high British interest rates and Opec members' desire to hold sterling assets than by oil, the Bank suggests.

The Bank rather weakly ducks the question of how North Sea oil should be handled, except to agree that there should be more investment. But it concedes, governments have not yet found an effective way of making the investment they want happen.

Lucas Industries is turning round more slowly than a windmill on a calm summer day. In 1980/81 when the group lost £21.4m and cut back its British workforce by more than 10,000, the story was a slump in demand for vehicle components which cost Lucas £45.3m.

Now the sorry tale has been carried over to the aerospace side which has been hit by the planned ending of the Lockheed Tri-star programme in 1984 and the reduced role for the Tornado multi-combat aircraft. A further 1,600 employees will lose their jobs, mainly at the Burnley plants.

Much of the agony could have been averted had the Lucas management acted to reduce the range of components sold to motor manufacturers earlier.

Meanwhile profits for the group were pretty much in line with market expectations at £7.02m pre-tax, against a loss of £26.09m for the comparable period and a £4m profit in the second of 1980/81.

The troubles on the aerospace side plus a continued lack of demand for vehicle components, where the Japanese have held their price advantage, had already forced analysts to lower their forecasts for the full year to around £30m. Further revisions yesterday suggest a profit of £25m, a long way from the £76.8m pre-tax achieved in 1977.

The interim dividend of 2.6p has been maintained but is not covered by earnings. At 196p, down 11p yesterday, the 11p fall on Wednesday, the share is not taking the recovery on trust.

System X Export drive Britain's lost its significant presence in the world market for telephone switching equipment in the early 1960s. This country's

three main manufacturers, GEC, Plessey and STC, continued to churn out old-fashioned electromechanical exchanges — very profitably — for the Post Office (now British Telecom) but they ceased to be competitive internationally.

Now Britain again has an exchange, the electronic System X, which has the performance potential to sell abroad. The trouble is that it has not actually won three years after British Telecom and the three manufacturers set up a joint company, British Telecommunications Systems (BTS), to market System X overseas.

Ministers and officials at the Department of Industry, who are rightly concerned to see a return on the £200m of public funds that have been spent on System X's development, have lost patience with the BTS partners. They believe that the companies have not put sufficient marketing muscle behind System X, and they are planning to give the exporting arrangements a shake-up.

The Government is putting pressure on the manufacturers either to commit themselves to a more vigorous campaign on behalf of System X or to drop out of BTS.

The ideal arrangement might be for two companies to drop out, leaving just one to concentrate on selling System X throughout the world with British Telecom's assistance. Then there would be an outside chance of achieving the current BTS target of winning £100m worth of orders a year — 10 per cent of the available world market for telephone switching equipment (excluding countries that are openly hostile to domestic suppliers).

Lucas

Shadows still

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The Ashdown Investment Trust Limited

Managed by J. Henry Schroder Wagg & Co. Limited

The Annual General Meeting was held at 120 Cheapside, London EC2 on Tuesday, 23 March, 1982 at 3.00 p.m.

The following is a summary of the Report by the Directors for the year ended 30 November, 1981.

	1981	1980
Total Revenue	£1,335,759	£1,321,731
Revenue after taxation and expenses	£ 741,596	£ 727,226
Earnings per Ordinary Share	6.74p	6.69p
Ordinary dividends for the year net per share	6.60p	6.20p
Net asset value per 25p Ordinary Share	287.2p	262.9p

Copies of the Report and Accounts are available from the Secretaries, J. Henry Schroder Wagg & Co. Limited, 120 Cheapside, London EC2V 6DS.

SPORT

FOOTBALL

French armour needs prodding

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent

Non Greenwood, England's manager, has to be prodded to get the French side of the coin. He has to be reminded that the French are not the only team in the world who can play football. He has to be reminded that the French are not the only team who can play football. He has to be reminded that the French are not the only team who can play football.

Scotland vote against League change

Scotland's football clubs took 13 minutes yesterday to reject a proposal from the Scottish Football Association to change the three divisions from 10, 14 and 16 clubs to 12, 16 and 20.

However, Scotland's 38 senior league clubs indicated, by their vote, that the legislators were completely out of touch. Now the Scottish Football Association will have to investigate how they could be so wide of the mark with a proposal which was clearly not to the clubs' liking.

Sydney, March 25. — Western Australia's Kim Hughes has regained the captaincy of the Australian cricket team for the tour of Pakistan in September.

South Australia's 24-year-old opening batsman, Wayne Phillips, has been named as the first choice to replace the late Ian Marsh.

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Spain bear the brunt

Spain were at the centre of criticism yesterday after complaints about the interpretation of the rules by their top referee and players.

Enfield in fight for 'team of the year'

Enfield are poised to overtake the club for the FA's annual 'team of the year' award. Seven weeks ago, Enfield were 13 points behind the leaders.

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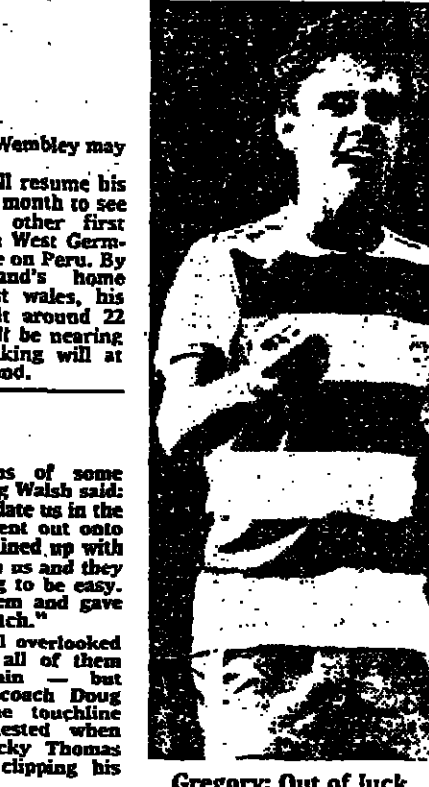
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Gregory: Out of luck

Gregory must miss the semi-final

John Gregory, the Queen's Park Rangers midfielder, will miss the FA Cup semi-final.

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It is tough taking on women and system

By John Hennessy, Golf Correspondent

They man was not in the best of spirits. "We were beaten by the system," he said. Terry Pinner was referring to the generous handicap allowed to women players in the Sunningdale Foursomes, reduced to the 100 and 100 and 100.

Cambridge hit more bad luck

It is sometimes claimed that the Lord is not on the side of the underdog, and certainly during the Cambridge regatta, the underdog has been hit more bad luck.

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Cambridge hit more bad luck

By Richard Burnell

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Argentina held

West Germany held the World Cup holders Argentina to a 1-1 draw in Buenos Aires.

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Hughes leads again

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Pakistan open out

Lahore, March 25. — Pakistan scored 398 for five in reply to Sri Lanka's first innings 240 on the third day of the test.

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Rebels' last chance

Johannesburg, March 25. — Graham Gooch and his 14 English rebels are still seeking a victory over South Africa.

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Britain's familiar problem

By John Nicholls

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Nicholas to stay

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Irish boot that made all the difference

By Peter West, Rugby Correspondent

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Potent brew King's could not swallow

By Peter Marson

Chwick GS... 10

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Righting a Rong the Danish way

By Richard Eaton

Only Lene Koppen, the Danish dentist, was able to create a significant hole in the broadening Chinese market at the 1982 World Championships.

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Round-up

Football

Football

Football

Football

Football

Football

Round-up

Football

Football

Football

Football

Football

Football

SPORT

RACING

Inauspicious start to Starkey classic hopes

By Michael Seely

THE 1982 Flat racing season opened on a sensational note at Doncaster yesterday when Greave Starkey and Bold Hawk were disqualified after beating Steve Cawthon and Steel Venture in the French Cup. Starkey, who had been disqualified and placed last, the race being awarded to Steel Venture.

The incident occurred just inside the three-furlong marker when Starkey pulled the favourite off the rails, apparently interfering with Woffie, who eventually finished fifth. The matter has been referred to the stewards of the Jockey Club.

Starkey has now been found guilty of four offences under Rule 15.1 in the last 18 months. This rule relates to such offences as careless, reckless and dangerous riding. Twice last season Starkey received lengthy sentences, being suspended for 14 days for reckless riding on Bonol at Royal Ascot in June and again when being banned from the saddle for 21 days for reckless riding on Escapism at Salisbury.

If the stewards at Farnham Square take a serious view of this latest offence it will be hard luck on Bold Hawk's trainer, Guy Harwood, with classic candidates

such as Seabreeze Prince, Hays and Nurek, who are all due to swing into action shortly.

This incident will not, of course, prevent Starkey from riding Home Coming in the Lincoln Stakes tomorrow as no action can be taken until the Jockey has been seen by the authorities.

Harwood, at least, has the consolation of knowing his horse is in good form as does Barry Hills, the trainer of Steel Venture, who has the heavily-backed Hattie Quaye engaged in tomorrow's big race.

Other trainers with horses due to run in the Lincoln are the received encouragement for their horses yesterday. After Philip Mitchell had saddled Telamon to run out a narrow winner of the Bertie Bassett Handicap, Guy had his final gallop. King's Glory had his final gallop. Mitchell was also thrilled with the running of his horse who is as game and plucky a horse as has ever looked through a bridge.

"I am especially pleased that I can now stand on the sidelines and see the main objective but before that he will go for the Queen's prize at Kempton."



Flying start: Paul Cook achieves his first success of the new season on Princes Gate.

Doncaster

Tote Double: 3.0 and 4.05, Treble 2.30, 3.30 and 4.35.
[Television (ITV) 2.30, 3.00 & 3.30 races]

2.0 BESSACOTT STAKES (2-y-o; selling £1,350) (17 runners)

1. 20300 ALAN WELLS (B) (A) 11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-100-101-102-103-104-105-106-107-108-109-110-111-112-113-114-115-116-117-118-119-120-121-122-123-124-125-126-127-128-129-130-131-132-133-134-135-136-137-138-139-140-141-142-143-144-145-146-147-148-149-150-151-152-153-154-155-156-157-158-159-160-161-162-163-164-165-166-167-168-169-170-171-172-173-174-175-176-177-178-179-180-181-182-183-184-185-186-187-188-189-190-191-192-193-194-195-196-197-198-199-200-201-202-203-204-205-206-207-208-209-210-211-212-213-214-215-216-217-218-219-220-221-222-223-224-225-226-227-228-229-230-231-232-233-234-235-236-237-238-239-240-241-242-243-244-245-246-247-248-249-250-251-252-253-254-255-256-257-258-259-260-261-262-263-264-265-266-267-268-269-270-271-272-273-274-275-276-277-278-279-280-281-282-283-284-285-286-287-288-289-290-291-292-293-294-295-296-297-298-299-300-301-302-303-304-305-306-307-308-309-310-311-312-313-314-315-316-317-318-319-320-321-322-323-324-325-326-327-328-329-330-331-332-333-334-335-336-337-338-339-340-341-342-343-344-345-346-347-348-349-350-351-352-353-354-355-356-357-358-359-360-361-362-363-364-365-366-367-368-369-370-371-372-373-374-375-376-377-378-379-380-381-382-383-384-385-386-387-388-389-390-391-392-393-394-395-396-397-398-399-400-401-402-403-404-405-406-407-408-409-410-411-412-413-414-415-416-417-418-419-420-421-422-423-424-425-426-427-428-429-430-431-432-433-434-435-436-437-438-439-440-441-442-443-444-445-446-447-448-449-450-451-452-453-454-455-456-457-458-459-460-461-462-463-464-465-466-467-468-469-470-471-472-473-474-475-476-477-478-479-480-481-482-483-484-485-486-487-488-489-490-491-492-493-494-495-496-497-498-499-500-501-502-503-504-505-506-507-508-509-510-511-512-513-514-515-516-517-518-519-520-521-522-523-524-525-526-527-528-529-530-531-532-533-534-535-536-537-538-539-540-541-542-543-544-545-546-547-548-549-550-551-552-553-554-555-556-557-558-559-560-561-562-563-564-565-566-567-568-569-570-571-572-573-574-575-576-577-578-579-580-581-582-583-584-585-586-587-588-589-590-591-592-593-594-595-596-597-598-599-600-601-602-603-604-605-606-607-608-609-610-611-612-613-614-615-616-617-618-619-620-621-622-623-624-625-626-627-628-629-630-631-632-633-634-635-636-637-638-639-640-641-642-643-644-645-646-647-648-649-650-651-652-653-654-655-656-657-658-659-660-661-662-663-664-665-666-667-668-669-670-671-672-673-674-675-676-677-678-679-680-681-682-683-684-685-686-687-688-689-690-691-692-693-694-695-696-697-698-699-700-701-702-703-704-705-706-707-708-709-710-711-712-713-714-715-716-717-718-719-720-721-722-723-724-725-726-727-728-729-730-731-732-733-734-735-736-737-738-739-740-741-742-743-744-745-746-747-748-749-750-751-752-753-754-755-756-757-758-759-760-761-762-763-764-765-766-767-768-769-770-771-772-773-774-775-776-777-778-779-780-781-782-783-784-785-786-787-788-789-790-791-792-793-794-795-796-797-798-799-800-801-802-803-804-805-806-807-808-809-810-811-812-813-814-815-816-817-818-819-820-821-822-823-824-825-826-827-828-829-830-831-832-833-834-835-836-837-838-839-840-841-842-843-844-845-846-847-848-849-850-851-852-853-854-855-856-857-858-859-860-861-862-863-864-865-866-867-868-869-870-871-872-873-874-875-876-877-878-879-880-881-882-883-884-885-886-887-888-889-890-891-892-893-894-895-896-897-898-899-900-901-902-903-904-905-906-907-908-909-910-911-912-913-914-915-916-917-918-919-920-921-922-923-924-925-926-927-928-929-930-931-932-933-934-935-936-937-938-939-940-941-942-943-944-945-946-947-948-949-950-951-952-953-954-955-956-957-958-959-960-961-962-963-964-965-966-967-968-969-970-971-972-973-974-975-976-977-978-979-980-981-982-983-984-985-986-987-988-989-990-991-992-993-994-995-996-997-998-999-1000-1001-1002-1003-1004-1005-1006-1007-1008-1009-1010-1011-1012-1013-1014-1015-1016-1017-1018-1019-1020-1021-1022-1023-1024-1025-1026-1027-1028-1029-1030-1031-1032-1033-1034-1035-1036-1037-1038-1039-1040-1041-1042-1043-1044-1045-1046-1047-1048-1049-1050-1051-1052-1053-1054-1055-1056-1057-1058-1059-1060-1061-1062-1063-1064-1065-1066-1067-1068-1069-1070-1071-1072-1073-1074-1075-1076-1077-1078-1079-1080-1081-1082-1083-1084-1085-1086-1087-1088-1089-1090-1091-1092-1093-1094-1095-1096-1097-1098-1099-1100-1101-1102-1103-1104-1105-1106-1107-1108-1109-1110-1111-1112-1113-1114-1115-1116-1117-1118-1119-1120-1121-1122-1123-1124-1125-1126-1127-1128-1129-1130-1131-1132-1133-1134-1135-1136-1137-1138-1139-1140-1141-1142-1143-1144-1145-1146-1147-1148-1149-1150-1151-1152-1153-1154-1155-1156-1157-1158-1159-1160-1161-1162-1163-1164-1165-1166-1167-1168-1169-1170-1171-1172-1173-1174-1175-1176-1177-1178-1179-1180-1181-1182-1183-1184-1185-1186-1187-1188-1189-1190-1191-1192-1193-1194-1195-1196-1197-1198-1199-1200-1201-1202-1203-1204-1205-1206-1207-1208-1209-1210-1211-1212-1213-1214-1215-1216-1217-1218-1219-1220-1221-1222-1223-1224-1225-122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6-2227-2228-2229-2230-2231-2232-2233-2234-2235-2236-2237-2238-2239-2240-2241-2242-2243-2244-2245-2246-2247-2248-2249-2250-2251-2252-2253-2254-2255-2256-2257-2258-2259-2260-2261-2262-2263-2264-2265-2266-2267-2268-2269-2270-2271-2272-2273-2274-2275-2276-2277-2278-2279-2280-2281-2282-2283-2284-2285-2286-2287-2288-2289-2290-2291-2292-2293-2294-2295-2296-2297-2298-2299-2300-2301-2302-2303-2304-2305-2306-2307-2308-2309-2310-2311-2312-2313-2314-2315-2316-2317-2318-2319-2320-2321-2322-2323-2324-2325-2326-2327-2328-2329-2330-2331-2332-2333-2334-2335-2336-2337-2338-2339-2340-2341-2342-2343-2344-2345-2346-2347-2348-2349-2350-2351-2352-2353-2354-2355-2356-2357-2358-2359-2360-2361-2362-2363-2364-2365-2366-2367-2368-2369-2370-2371-2372-2373-2374-2375-2376-2377-2378-2379-2380-2381-2382-2383-2384-2385-2386-2387-2388-2389-2390-2391-2392-2393-2394-2395-2396-2397-2398-2399-2400-2401-2402-2403-2404-2405-2406-2407-2408-2409-2410-2411-2412-2413-2414-2415-2416-2417-2418-2419-2420-2421-2422-2423-2424-2425-2426-2427-2428-2429-2430-2431-2432-2433-2434-2435-2436-2437-2438-2439-2440-2441-2442-2443-2444-2445-2446-2447-2448-2449-2450-2451-2452-2453-2454-2455-2456-2457-2458-2459-2460-2461-2462-2463-2464-2465-2466-2467-2468-2469-2470-2471-2472-2473-2474-2475-2476-2477-2478-2479-2480-2481-2482-2483-2484-2485-2486-2487-2488-2489-2



All hands to the aid of a shoeless Princess Michael of Kent at Cowes yesterday as she is welcomed aboard Victory, Britain's America's Cup contender. Report, page 17.

Newman appointment infuriates GLC chief

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

An attack on the appointment of Sir Kenneth Newman as the next Commissioner for the Metropolitan Police is made today by Mr Kenneth Livingstone, leader of the Greater London Council.

Writing in *Labour Herald*, of which he is a co-editor, under the headline, *Newman is not the man for London*, Mr Livingstone says that the decision to appoint Sir Kenneth as the successor to Sir David McNeen will cause widespread alarm among black Londoners.

He says Sir Kenneth, former Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, "has experience is more suited to the control of a paramilitary force in a city torn by civil war than as a police chief in a multicultural city with a parliamentary democracy."

Mr Livingstone adds: "We must demand that Newman's appointment does not proceed, and that the Greater London Council's police committee, with representatives of the London boroughs, be allowed to appoint McNeen's replacement."

He writes that Sir Kenneth's background has been in the area of army-style weaponry and paramilitary campaigns against forces feared by the establishment. "We do not want to see police-army methods that have been fashioned to meet the needs of

Kidnappers of Dozier are jailed

Verona, March 25

Seven Red Brigades terrorists were today sentenced to a total of more than 300 years imprisonment for kidnapping General James Dozier.

The longest sentence—27 years—was passed on Cesare di Leonardo, aged 23, one of five terrorists captured when police rescued the American general in Padua on January 28.

In accordance with government policy of offering shorter sentences to terrorists who help the police, the leader of the kidnappers, Antonio Livestri, aged 27, was jailed for 16 years.

The court president, Signor Francesco Pulcini, said all 17 defendants had been found guilty of kidnapping. Eight defendants are still on the run. Of those in court, three were women.

Most of the sentences were slightly lower than those demanded. The defendants are to appeal. Fines ranging from 100,000 lire (£40) to 1.3m lire were also imposed.

Why the Germans bought the British Watteau

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

Herr Hermann Abs, chairman of the board of the Frankfurt Museum, explained yesterday why the museum had paid DM3m (£700,000) for a painting attributed to Watteau which had passed through Christie's in December for £132,000.

The painting, depicting "Ladies and gentlemen emulating for the title of Cythera," had been in Britain for the last 200 years and was sent for sale by the trustees of the late Major-General E. H. Goubau.

The National Gallery has been trying for some years to improve its holdings of French eighteenth century paintings. Were this a genuine Watteau it would have been a desirable acquisition. However, an expert licence was granted (with the National Gallery as expert advisers). Was an important treasure allowed to slip through the net?

The evidence for there having been three versions rests on two eighteenth century engravings of the composition. One is by Mercur, which corresponds to the Christie's picture and was reputedly made in London by the artist's son, Jean-Baptiste Watteau, and corresponds to the Paris picture.

Columbia's touchy colonel picks up buzzing noise

From Piers Ackerman, Johnson Space Centre, Houston, Texas, March 25

The crew of the space shuttle Columbia overcame the minor technical difficulties that have beset the third mission of the spacecraft today and were well ahead of their schedule of experiments.

Colonel Jack Lousma, the commander, and Colonel Gordon Fullerton, the pilot, manipulated the spacecraft's remote controlled arm, and used it to pluck a 350lb plasma measuring device from the cargo bay of their winged space freighter.

The plasma diagnostic package, held extended out the arm, is expected to measure the wake of the space shuttle as it passes through the earth's magnetosphere at an altitude of 130 nautical miles.

The wake generated as the space shuttle passes through space is a complex phenomenon that scientists have not yet had the opportunity to study with the smaller craft previously flown.

Since many scientific and engineering investigations will use the shuttle as a plasma laboratory, there is a need to understand the extent of this wake, which could complicate measurements being made in the vicinity of the orbiter.

Both men slept more peacefully on Wednesday night after disengaging earplugs, which had been picked up by a loud buzzing noise as the space craft passed over Iran, Southern Russia and Thailand.

Baird puts William in the picture

Continued from page 1

first week of October, 1925, everything functioned properly. The image of the dummy's head formed itself on the screen with what appeared to be an almost unbelievable clarity. I had got it!

He paid half a crown (12 pence) to persuade his office boy, William Taynton, to sit amid the bright lights and whirling discs of the transmitter. Baird wrote: "I saw the flickering but clearly recognizable image of William's face the first face seen by television."

It is clear that Baird thought himself the originator of television and Mr Flamm is determined to prove him right. However, he believes there is a concerted effort in America to promote Zworin as the father of television, even though Zworin said in 1977: "I invented the iconoscope. That is my claim. I was the first. My father? What is Father? That is a newspaper talk."

Zworin, now in his nineties, lives in Florida and Princeton, New Jersey. It may have been luck that Baird's system was adopted by the BBC for the first regular television broadcasts in 1929—it is said that a coin was spun to decide whether his or a competitor's should be used—but experts insist that his work clinched the matter (Kenneth Gossing writes).

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements
The Duke of Edinburgh visits new Conference Centre in Harrogate, 11.30; addresses Conference of Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, York University, 3.30.
Princess Anne, Patron, Riding for the Disabled Association, attends lunch, Saddlers' Hall, 1.1.
Princess Margaret attends Royal Air Force Anniversary Concert, in aid of Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund, Royal Festival Hall, 7.45.
The Duchess of Gloucester, President, General Welfare of the Blind, opens new factory at Ashbury Grove, London, 11.30.

Exhibitions in progress

William Havel Bicomatary Exhibition, Abbot Hall Art Gallery, Kendal, Mon to Fri 10.30 to 5.30, Sat and Sun 2 to 5; (until April 25).
The Gentle Eye—photographs by John Ruskin, University of Manchester, Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester, Mon to Sat 10 to 12.30 and 1.30 to 5, Sun 2 to 5; (until April 11).
Drawings and watercolours by John Ruskin, Whitworth Art Gallery, University of Manchester, Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester, Mon to Sat 10 to 12.30 and 1.30 to 5, Sun 2 to 5; (until May 3).
Vladimir Mayakovsky—Twenty years of Work Museum of Modern Art, 30 Pembroke Street, Oxford, Tues to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5; (until May 2).

Last chance to see

Etchings by Jackie Parry, Garden Gallery, Darlington, 10 to 12; (until March 25).
The Subjective Eye, Arncliffe Gallery, New Quay, Bristol, 11 to 8 (ends tomorrow).
The Century Along Place—a hundred years of public transport in Oxfordshire, Banbury Museum, Banbury, 10 to 4 (ends tomorrow).
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The papers

The Daily Mirror asks why Tories should have wanted to rejoin the Labour Party, when in 1968 he joined "as a joke" and promptly tore up his card. The paper adds: "The Labour Party needs Mr. All like it needs a lost deposit."

Top 10 films

The top ten films in London:
1. Reds
2. On Golden Pond
3. The Secret Policeman's Other Ball
4. Chariots of Fire/Gregory's Girl
5. Mad Max 2
6. Absence of Malice
7. Arthur
8. Whose Life is it Anyway?
9. Death Wish II
10. The French Lieutenant's Woman

Food prices

Best salad butts at the moment are chinty and celery, both cheaper this week; English, Jersey or Dutch hothouse tomatoes of good quality but main fairly expensive at 55 to 75p a lb; Spanish and Moroccan varieties are considerably cheaper but of variable quality.

Anniversaries

Births: Konrad von Gesner, naturalist, Zurich, 1576; Benjamin Thompson (Count von Rumford), scientist and co-founder of the Royal Institution, Woburn, Mass., U.S.A., 1753; Alfred Edward Housman, Poet, 1859; Deaths: Sir John Vanbrugh, London, 1726; Ludwig van Beethoven, Vienna, 1827; Walt Whitman, Camden, N.J., U.S.A., 1892; Cecil Rhodes, Middelburg, Cape Colony, 1902.

Weather

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Around Britain

Summary of weather conditions around Britain, including temperature, wind, and cloud cover for various locations.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 15,790

ACROSS

1 Cooper's hose made of leather (5).
5 Kemp producing a nine days' wonder (6).
10 Selkirk's biographer throws one-time diplomats in the river (5).
11 Strong ire caused by such reclassification (9).
12 Free to become immoral (4,5).
13 O, doctor, about this game... (5).
14 ...do nothing sour, rough or smelly (7).
16 To make artistic impression in today's limits makes us peevish (6).
19 Father's in a chasm without a way round (6).
21 Policy employed in this permissive age? (3,4).
23 Old Brits get hard water in return (5).
25 Arranger or a singer maybe (9).
27 Egyptian god has old-fashioned drinking aid (3,6).
28 Land on the beam? (5).
29 Stuffed play and did what was needed (6).
30 Study department—French, of course (8).

DOWN

1 Second issue inciting rebellion (8).
2 Bid politician make donations (9).
3 Bend this endlessly in homage (5).

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 15,790

ACROSS

4 Points right to you French—no exclamation (7).
6 Camels were so once—pigs never (9).
7 Many a leg to achieve 9 (5).
8 Tatty horse dressed in expensive get-up (6).
9 Oral agreement for rice (6).
15 Female slave does what when abused (9).
17 Greetings to jolly bad weather (8).
18 Dog loses his tail. Get it back (8).
20 Catch-phrase for Spain's first rocker (6).
21 More catch in the Chairman's old car part (7).
22 Will the wife note our absence? (6).
24 A part of one's recent art (5).
26 "Athwart men's" as they lie asleep" (R & J) (15).

Solution of Puzzle No 15,789

Across: 1. COOPER'S, 5. KEMP, 10. SELKIRK, 11. STRONG, 12. FREE, 13. O, DOCTOR, 14. ...DO NOTHING, 16. TO MAKE, 19. FATHER'S, 21. POLICY, 23. OLD BRITS, 25. ARRANGER, 27. EGYPTIAN, 28. LAND, 29. STUFFED, 30. STUDY. Down: 1. SECOND, 2. BID, 3. BEND, 4. POINTS, 6. CAMELS, 7. MANY, 8. TATTY, 9. ORAL, 15. FEMALE, 17. GREETINGS, 18. DOG, 20. CATCH-PHASE, 21. MORE, 22. WILL, 24. A PART, 26. "ATHWART."

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Finland Mk 8.65 8.20
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Germany DM 4.49 4.24
Greece Dr 115.00 108.00
Hong Kong \$ 10.85 10.25
India Rupee 11.15 10.65
Italy Lira 242.00 232.00
Japan Yen 464.00 438.00
Netherlands Gld 4.96 4.70
Norway Kr 11.40 10.50
Portugal Esc 200.00 185.00
South Africa Rd 2.27 2.07
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Prize Crossword in The Times tomorrow

Apologise for the misprinting of 4 across in yesterday's puzzle (early editions) which should have read: "He's outside left in Athenian type of sport (8)".

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Private member's motion on combating juvenile crime.

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THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

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